



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

FRANK STRAUB, Ph.D.

LETTER OF AWARD

To: Ofc. Ben Yinger
From: Frank G. Straub, Jr., Chief of Police
Date: June 1, 2015
Re: Lifesaving Award

Lt. Dean Sprague 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.

On Sunday morning, June 1st, 2015 at 0227 hours, a female called 911 to report that her fiancé' had a knife and was cutting himself. Radio advised that the subject had dropped the knife, and the screaming female relayed that her fiancé' was "bleeding really badly" and trying to apply pressure with a towel, and reported that the subject's fingers were now numb and turning blue. As an additional concern, it was learned that there was a gun present on the premises, but not involved.

Officers Yinger & Ames arrived on scene at 0232 hours, and at 0234 hours they advised Radio that they were applying a tourniquet. Upon my arrival I observed Officer Yinger treating the subject. There was an extreme amount of blood splattered the length of the kitchen floor and walls (indicative of arterial spray), soaking the hallway carpet, and literally covering the bathroom floor where the subject was seated.

Spokane Fire Department personnel arrived on scene at 0236 hours, and were in the apartment at 0238 hours, approximately four minutes after application of the tourniquet. By the time medics had stabilized the subject, he was too dizzy to walk, and was carried down the three flights of stairs to the ambulance.

Sacred Heart Emergency Room charge nurse Belinda Barton advised that the subject had cut himself so deeply that, had he sawn just a little lower, he would have amputated his own hand. She also stated that when the tourniquet was removed, the arterial spray covered the trauma room, and the artery had been completely cut around by the knife used.

Nurse Barton also said that due to Officer Yinger's decision to immediately apply a tourniquet to the wound, he saved both the arm and the subject's life. She also stated that had Officer Yinger not applied the tourniquet, the subject most likely would have bled out before SFD arrived, as he would have "pumped out" in another three or four minutes, maximum.

Officer Yinger, 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 2015 Annual Employee Awards Ceremony. A copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.


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

