The Medal of Merit is awarded to employees who distinguish themselves by meritorious achievement or service. Meritorious actions are those which clearly surpass that which is normally required or expected.

In 1996, Jan Pogachar was promoted to the rank of Detective and shortly thereafter assigned to the Domestic Violence Unit. In face, she was instrumental in the formation and cultivation of the team. Detective Pogachar has been the stabilizing influence in the unit and has always represented Spokane Police Department in the most professional manner possible.

Detective Pogachar is known as an expert in the area of domestic violence law and the elements that constitute domestic violence crimes. She has taught classes to the Reserve Academy, the Basic Law Enforcement Academy and in-service sessions. She has made presentation to numerous groups throughout the community, including the Citizen’s Academy. Additionally, she consistently carries the highest number of cases of any Detective in the department and the quality of her cases is outstanding.

Whenever there are questions as to the finer points of DV law, Detective Pogachar is the department’s authority. Patrol officers, fellow detectives, supervisor and administrators alike call her regularly for information and advice. She is always willing to share her knowledge and is eager to help others. She continues to learn, teach, and work to protect victims of domestic violence in our community.

Detective Pogachar’s enthusiasm, dedication, performance and contributions are exceptional and the department is proud to recognize her with the Medal of Merit.

Detective Pogachar was awarded her Medal at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February of 2004.