On June 26th and 27th, the City of Spokane hosted the 21st annual Hoopfest. This year’s event was attended by a reported over 200,000 players and spectators. On Saturday, June 26th, at approximately 1750, Spokane Police Department Patrol Officers responded to a report of a shooting at Spokane Falls Blvd and Howard, right at the heart of Hoopfest. Two victims were reportedly injured and there were numerous reports on various suspects, their descriptions, and their locations. One report indicated that a witness was following the suspects south on Howard from Riverfront Park. This witness turned out to be Detective Stacey Carr who was off-duty, attending Hoopfest with her children and some of their friends. Detective Carr was at Riverfront Park near the fountain when she saw an argument between two different groups of males. Detective Carr witnessed one of the males pull out a small handgun and fire it in the direction of one of the other males in the other group. The bullet hit two innocent females and shrapnel from the round injured another innocent male.

At a time when everyone else was concerned about getting to safety, Detective Carr’s police instincts and training went into action. She immediately directed her children to a place of safety. Detective Carr was able to quickly assess the victim’s injuries as non-life threatening and observed that they were being attended to by other citizens. Detective Carr then called 911 and gave constant updates about the suspects. She gave physical and clothing descriptions of the three suspects, advised that the gun was being passed from the shooter to another suspect, and advised that they were exchanging clothing in an attempt to conceal their identity.

While searching for the suspects, Officer Jerry Anderson recognized off-duty Detective Stacy Carr walking behind three males at Main and Howard while speaking on her cell phone. She indicated to him that these subjects were the shooting suspects. Detective Carr quickly informed Officer Anderson which male currently had the gun. Officer Anderson instructed Detective Carr to continue to follow the other two suspects while he contacted the gunman. She continued to follow the two remaining suspects south on Howard, continuing to give 911 and remaining responding officers updates. The officers then caught up to the suspects at First and Howard, taking them into custody there.

Detective Carr has certainly distinguished herself in the area of meritorious achievement; and SPD is proud to recognize her with the Medal of Merit Award. Detective Carr was issued the Merit Bar on August 23rd, 2010. She will also be given the Medal of Merit at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February 2011.

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.