OFFICER TERRI BOARDMAN

The Purple Heart is awarded to employees injured in the performance of their duties to such a degree that they require hospitalization or immediate care from a physician. The injury must be of a serious nature capable of causing death or extended disability.

On August 15, 1991, the Stevens County Sheriff’s Office, the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office and the Spokane Police Department became involved in an incident when two defendants threatened a subject with a gun in Stevens County, Washington. A Stevens County Deputy responded to this incident and pursued the suspect vehicle. The defendants were driving a vehicle with an adult male, female and a child as passengers. All occupants of the vehicle abandoned it and fled on foot. The defendants, Chavers and Mowery, went to a farm house and robbed a homeowner of a .41 magnum pistol and a 1972 Ford pickup. As a second Stevens County Deputy approached the farmhouse, Chavers shot at him striking him and his vehicle. They fled in the 1972 pickup to Suncrest, illegally entering a residence to steal a vehicle. When the resident resisted, he was shot and killed by the defendants. They fled in the stolen truck towards Spokane County, shooting at a SCSO deputy in an unmarked patrol car. They fled at high speeds into the City of Spokane, after shooting at a SPD officer and then striking an oncoming car. Chavers and Mowery crashed their car. Mowery was taken into custody.

After exiting the vehicle, Chavers ran through a house at 1300 E. Garland, in the back door and out the front, and into another house. He forced three residents at gunpoint to stay in the house as he fled through the back door into the backyard, and climbed on to the roof at E. 1200 Garland. A resident noticed Chavers on his neighbor’s roof and ordered him down. Chavers came down and threatened the resident with a gun and demanded car keys. Ofc. Boardman and Ofc. J. Olsen arrived at the house and Chavers began firing upon them, one bullet striking her in the left ankle. Officers returned fire, and Chavers continued to shoot at them. Chavers was hit, but got up and ran to the alley and was confronted by other SPD officers. He continued to shoot and officers returned fire. He was stopped at this point by police gunfire and was taken into custody.

Terri was awarded the Purple Heart at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February of 2009.