

Date: September 18, 2013

## Glendale Police Officers Honored with Departmental Awards

### Exceptional Merit Award – Justin Ramsay

This award acknowledges the incredible work and efforts performed by Officer Justin Ramsay in addressing citizen concerns regarding criminal damage related to graffiti.

Since June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Officer Justin Ramsay has been addressing the matter of prolific graffiti in the area of 69th Avenue and Maryland.

After multiple citizens expressed concern about increased amounts of graffiti, Officer Ramsay took it upon himself to investigate and spearhead an effort to address the problem. Officer Ramsay found several monikers that were repeatedly being “tagged” on both city and private property. He documented and photographed all graffiti in the area.

Officer Ramsay started his investigation with what could be called a basic “boots on the ground” approach. He made several consensual contacts in the affected areas and was able to identify and establish addresses for suspects through his consensual contacts and the utilization of social media.

As of this writing, all suspects involved in these specific incidents have been identified. Warrants issued and several have been taken into custody. In the process of clearing these cases, Officer Ramsay found the suspects are responsible for as much as \$10,000 in property damage.

Officer Ramsay is a graveyard patrol officer who has taken to the “beat” concept wholeheartedly. He has not allowed the limitations of his shift or daily duties to keep him from addressing citizen concerns identified in the community he serves.

He has allowed nothing to become a barrier, and he has pushed forward to accomplish the mission, which is why he is being recognized today with the Glendale Police Department’s Exceptional Merit Award.



## **Lifesaving Award – Officer Bryan Anderson**

On July 1st, 2013, just after 9pm, a 911 call was received in regarding an accident involving a car and a pedestrian. K9 Officer Bryan Anderson was the first to arrive on scene and went to the aid of the injured pedestrian, Lisa Renee Christensen, who was seriously injured still lying in the roadway.

Officer Anderson determined Lisa had sustained life threatening injuries and began to perform CPR while simultaneously directing responding Officers to close down the roadway and secure the scene. He continued to perform CPR until Glendale Fire Personnel arrived on scene and began emergency medical aid.

According to the Glendale Fire incident report, Lisa's initial condition was life-threatening, with multiple open fractures. In addition to Officer Anderson's efforts, medical personnel implemented advanced life support procedures, and Lisa was transported to St. Joseph's Hospital.

During a recent update from Lisa's family, they related she not only survived her injuries but has miraculously been transferred from the Hospital to a rehabilitation center. Even though Lisa has a long difficult road to recovery, her family wanted to extend a heartfelt thanks to Officer Bryan Anderson for his quick response and lifesaving efforts.

In recognition of Officer Bryan Anderson's actions during this incident, we are proud to present him with the Glendale Police Department's Life Saving Award.



**Chief's Award for Excellence – Sgt. Jeff Turney, Officers Evan Kudler and Brian Shackelford**  
(Shackelford could not attend today's presentation).

These officers are being recognized for the actions taken after responding to an active shooter incident on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

During this incident, several 911 callers advised a male was shooting a weapon and threatening citizens in the area of 6300 West Bell Rd. Officers Shackelford and Kudler arrived on scene and immediately encountered a citizen armed with a handgun and safely gained compliance from the citizen and determined that he was attempting to pursue the suspect who had been firing a weapon indiscriminately.

Using sound officer safety tactics, Sergeant Turney and Officers Shackelford and Kudler advanced on the suspect who appeared to be preparing to ambush them.

The officers continued giving commands and the suspect finally threw his gun to the ground and attempted to flee, but was safely taken into custody by Officer Kudler and Sergeant Turney.

The 60 plus combined years of law enforcement experience possessed by Officer Shackelford, Officer Kudler, and Sergeant Turney, greatly impacted the outcome of this incident.

The actions of these three individuals bring great credit upon themselves and the men and women of the Glendale Police Department and are being presented today with the Chief's Award for Excellence.



## **Purple Heart – K9 Officer Wes Zygmunt**

Today Officer/Handler Wes Zygmunt will be awarded Glendale Police Department's Purple Heart Award, as a result of his heroic actions which ultimately lead to him being shot by a suspect on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Officer Zygmunt and his K9 Ronin responded to assist in locating an armed suspect who had committed several felonies, including the threat to shoot an innocent citizen. The suspect fled into a residential area and hid to avoid detection and apprehension.

During the search, it was believed that the suspect was hiding under a trampoline and officers developed a plan to confront the suspect. As they executed the plan, the suspect opened fire, striking Officer Zygmunt and his K9 partner Ronin.

Officer Zygmunt was shot and injured in both his left hand and foot. Unfortunately, Officer Zygmunt's K9 partner Ronin was also struck by the suspect's gunfire and later died.

The death of Ronin touched the hearts of not only the men and women of our department, but also our community and many others from around the Nation. But those who understand the special bond that is created between a dog and their handler or owner, will understand the pain Officer Zygmunt has had to endure with the loss of his K9 partner, Ronin.

For his personal sacrifices in the line of duty, we honor Officer Zygmunt with the Glendale Police Department's Purple Heart.

