

IOWA POLICE JOURNAL

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE IOWA STATE POLICE ASSOCIATION



PURPLE HEART AWARD NOMINATIONS



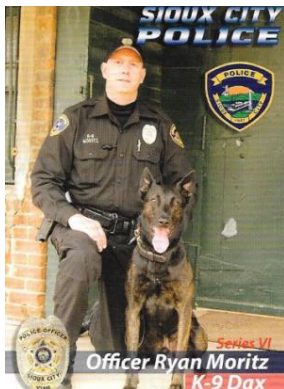
The Iowa State Police Association (ISPA) Purple Heart Award was developed in 2013 for the purpose of honoring extraordinary Iowa peace officers who have been seriously wounded or killed in the line of duty as a result of a combat incident.

In addition, the award may be conferred if an injury was averted by body armor. This award will be given in all cases resulting in line of duty death, but will otherwise be limited to those cases involving an attack by an assailant or the performance of an act of valor.

Purple Heart Award nominations must involve an assailant attack or act of valor occurring or concluding between July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. This year, and in future years, the award will be presented to the recipient or posthumously to the law enforcement officer's family at the annual ISPA conference in October.

Please visit our [Purple Heart Award page](#) to nominate an officer.

PAST RECIPIENTS



Officer Ryan Moritz
Sioux City Police Department
Date of Incident: 2-07-16

At approximately 3 a.m. on Sunday, February 7, 2016, Sioux City police officers entered an apartment on the city's north side and detained eight people suspected in a series of burglaries and robberies.

The suspects were brought outside to be transported to the jail. But a lack of vehicles meant one of them, Isaiah Mothershed, had to wait his turn. Officer Ryan Moritz, along with another officer, took Mothershed back inside the apartment and sat him on a couch.

"That's when Mothershed, still handcuffed with his hands behind his back, reached into the cushions of the couch and grabbed a .40 pistol, turned and shot Moritz in the left leg," Police Chief Doug Young said. "Moritz then lunged at Mothershed, trying to get the gun. In the ensuing struggle, the gun went off again, striking Mothershed in his own leg."

Both were administered first aid on the scene then taken to Mercy Medical Center. Officer Moritz was discharged quickly from the hospital and was recovering at home the following Monday. Miraculously, the bullet passed through his thigh without striking anything vital. Officer Moritz, a 13-year veteran of the force was able to recover and return to work.



**Officer Susan Farrell and
Officer Carlos Puente-Morales
Des Moines Police Department
End of Watch: 3-26-16**

On the morning of March 26, 2016, two Des Moines Police officers were killed in the line of duty in a two-vehicle accident while transporting a prisoner. The prisoner and the driver of the second vehicle involved were also killed.

The crash happened around 12:40 a.m. on Interstate 80 near the Waukee exit at mile marker

117. The officers were driving eastbound, returning the prisoner from Council Bluffs to Des Moines, when they were struck head on by a vehicle driving the wrong way on the interstate. Reports said Officer Susan Farrell, 30, and Officer Carlos Puente-Morales, 34, died immediately in the crash. Both officers had just graduated from the police academy in October of 2015.

Officer Farrell worked for the Polk County Sheriff's Office for years before joining the Des Moines Police Department. Officer Puente-Morales was an officer in Ottumwa before working for Des Moines police. He was a member of the Iowa National Guard. Both officers were very well respected and committed to community service.



**Officer Adam Liddle
Waterloo Police Department
End of Watch: 10-29-15**

Officer Adam Liddle, a three-year veteran of the Waterloo Police Department, died on October 29, 2015. Officer Liddle had worked second shift patrol the previous night, responding to several calls. Around 10 p.m., Officer Liddle and several other officers were dispatched to a high-risk weapons violation. Dispatch advised the responding officers that people reported hearing five to seven gunshots and provided officers with a description of the suspect vehicle. Upon arrival to the area, Officer Liddle and fellow officers found a house that

had been shot several times with a shotgun. The officers checked the area for the suspect(s) and suspect vehicle, but none were located.

Approximately one hour later, Officer Liddle went home to bed. He woke during the night complaining that his whole body hurt, and he wasn't feeling well. The next morning, Officer Liddle was still not feeling well. He discounted his condition and headed to the gym in preparation for the department's mandatory annual physical fitness test.

After completing his workout, Officer Liddle was talking to fellow officers and other gym patrons when they said he turned to walk away, suddenly collapsed and stopped breathing. One of the officers and an off-duty nurse began administering CPR while others called 911. Officer Liddle was transported to Sartori Hospital where he ultimately died of sudden cardiac arrest.