

IOWA POLICE JOURNAL

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE IOWA STATE POLICE ASSOCIATION

REFLECTIONS ON IOWA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS 2014

Iowa State Police Association



2014 will arguably be considered one of the roughest in recent years on law enforcement in the United States as a whole. Now is the time that we, as peace officers, need to be the most supportive of our brothers and sisters in blue, and not only offer our shoulders to those who have lost lives in their fight to walk that thin blue line, but also to remember to speak out about the ones who have gone above and beyond the expected to help those in need.

Listed below is a recap of the past year of those who have either lost the fight, fought and survived, or chose to serve in a capacity beyond what anyone would have asked of them.

The Iowa Law Enforcement Purple Heart Medal was adopted by ISPA in July 2013 for the purpose of honoring sworn Iowa law enforcement officers who have been seriously wounded or killed in the line of duty as a result of a combat incident. The following are the 2014 recipients of this award:

Lt. Patrick Richardson
Newton PD
E.O.W. 09-01-13

A 20-year veteran, Lt. Patrick Richardson died on September 1, 2013. He had commanded the SWAT team on a high-risk search warrant on August 28, 2013. Upon returning home, Richardson complained of chest pains, and continued to have symptoms throughout the weekend. On Sept. 1, Richardson went out on a run, where he developed chest pains and realized he was having a heart attack. He was flown by air ambulance to the hospital where he died.

Officer Jamie Buenting
Rockwell City PD
E.O.W. 09-13-13

Police Officer Jamie Buenting, a 12-year veteran, was shot and killed during a standoff on September 13, 2014. Officers had responded to the home hours earlier after receiving a report that a wanted man was at the location. The man refused to exit and barricaded himself inside. The subject fired a single shot and struck Officer Buenting, killing him.

Sgt. Brendan Zeimet
Maquoketa PD
Date of Incident: 04-01-14

Sgt. Brendan Zeimet, a 13-year veteran, was shot and seriously injured on April 1, 2014. Zeimet observed a truck parked on the wrong side of the road with its lights off and one occupant. He went to conduct a welfare check when he observed an assault rifle in the occupant's hands, and ordered him to put the weapon down. As he retreated for cover, a gunfight ensued and Zeimet was shot once in the left forearm.

Iowa's Heroes is sponsored by Hy-Vee. Each of Iowa's Heroes featured in the Iowa Police Journal is awarded a \$50 gift card in appreciation for their service, sacrifice and dedication to their communities. Any law enforcement officer is eligible for this award, and any person can contact a member of ISPA to recommend them. We are always looking for recipients so please let us know of someone you would like to see honored!

**Officer Grant Stender
West Liberty PD**

On November 25, 2013, Officer Grant Stender of the West Liberty Police Department responded to a call of a female in labor. Stender realized that not only was she in labor, but that her baby was coming. Stender said that his training kicked in and "a switch flipped and I went into 'go' mode." A short time later, the baby was born.

**Sgt. Joel Lizer
Fort Dodge PD**

On December 5, 2013, Fort Dodge Sgt. Joel Lizer, a 21-year veteran, was able to evacuate four adults and two children from a burning house before any of them were injured.

**Officer Blain Brinkmeyer
West Des Moines PD**

On December 13, 2013, West Des Moines Police Officer Blain Brinkmeyer, a 16-year veteran, assisted unconscious 56-year-old Cheryl Burgess, performing CPR for several minutes before fire fighters and paramedics arrived. Within minutes, Burgess was conscious and responding.

**Officer Justin Allen, Officer Dave Danielson, Officer Ray Maxey, Officer Stephen Sheets
Marshalltown PD**

On March 15, 2014, Marshalltown Police Officers Justin Allen, Dave Danielson, Ray Maxey and Stephen Sheets responded to a domestic assault where a male subject had confined and brutally abused his wife and son. The suspect was armed with a weapon and was using his 7-year-old daughter as a shield. Acting as a team, they were able to rescue the girl and take the man into custody.

**Officer Jill Ohm
Sioux City PD**

On October 3, 2014, Officer Jill Ohm, Sioux City Police, was dispatched to a possible suicidal subject. The suspect pulled a handgun and fired two shots at Ohm from point blank range, one of which struck Ohm in the chin. Even after being shot in the face, Ohm was able to not only control the scene, but also relay the suspect's name, description and direction of travel to responding officers.

In closing out the 2014 year, we just want to remind everyone to be alert, be safe, and above all, be proud of your chosen profession, and continue to provide the best service possible, all while keeping the ones you protect out of harm's way. ISPA thanks you for all that you do.