

HONORING CONNECTICUT'S HEROES



THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS DINNER

November 8, 2023

Aria

45 Murphy Road, Prospect CT



The 2023 Law Enforcement Award Recipients

Law Enforcement Plaques

Officer Jeremy Scialdoni
Bridgeport Police Union Local 1159

Officer Erica Illescas
Bridgeport Police Union Local 1159

Officer Daniel Ortiz
Bridgeport Police Union Local 1159

Officer Adam Szeps
Bridgeport Police Union Local 1159

Officer Jammal Vaughn
Bridgeport Police Union Local 1159

Sergeant Ryan Coleman
New Britain Police Union Local 1165

Sergeant Matthew Mroczko
New Britain Police Union Local 1165

Lieutenant Donald Anderson
New Britain Police Union Local 1165

Acting Detective Jason Walker
New Britain Police Union Local 1165

Officer Tyler Grant
New Britain Police Union Local 1165

Lieutenant Cornelius Rodgers
New London Police Union Local 724

Officer Michael Lewis
New London Police Union Local 724

Officer Seth Bolduc
New London Police Union Local 724

Sergeant Joseph Maida
Stratford Police Union Local 407

Officer Aaron Grimaldi
Wallingford Police Union Local 1570



**The 2023 Law Enforcement
Award Recipients**
The Correctional Preservation of Life Awards

Correction Officer Christina Deeter
CT State Correction Employees Local 1565

Correction Officer Jose Diaz
CT State Correction Employees Local 1565

Correction Officer Timothy Titus
CT State Correction Employees Local 1565

Correction Officer Ciara Baker
CT State Correction Employees 1565

Correction Officer Thomas Membrino
CT State Correction Employees 1565



**The 2023 Law Enforcement
Award Recipients**
The Connecticut Correctional Plaque Awards

Correction Officer Burnett Pollock
CT State Correction Employees Local 391

Correction Officer Zachary Catala
CT State Correction Employees Local 391

Correction Officer Sean Ross
Cheshire State Correction Employees Local 387

Correction Officer Thomas Kruzel
CT State Correction Employees Local 391

In Memoriam



**Lieutenant
Dustin DeMonte**

**Sergeant
Alex Hamzy**

On Oct. 12, 2022, an unspeakable tragedy in Bristol, CT, shook our community to the core when a gunman ambushed Sergeant Dustin DeMonte and Officers Alex Hamzy and Alec Iurato. The brutal and premeditated attack claimed the lives of Sgt. DeMonte and Ofc. Hamzy, and seriously injured Ofc. Iurato, who was able to return fire and kill the shooter to end the threat.

Sgt. DeMonte served 10 years in the Bristol Police Department and was also a school resource officer at Greene-Hills and West Bristol Schools. Always dedicated to his community, Sgt. DeMonte helped in honoring local officers who were killed in the line of duty and also helped the homeless through the outreach program of Brian's Angels.

Lt. Hamzy was an eight-year veteran of the Bristol Police Department and Bristol native. A longtime advisor for the Bristol Police Explorer Cadet Program, he was passionate about teaching young adults the values needed to serve their community.

The two fallen officers were posthumously promoted during their memorial service last October, with Sgt. DeMonte becoming a Lt. and Ofc. Hamzy becoming a Sgt.



PRAYER



Lord, I ask for courage

Courage to face and conquer my own fears...

Courage to take me where others will not go.

I ask for strength

Strength of body to protect others...

Strength of spirit to lead others.

I ask for dedication

Dedication to my job, to do it well...

Dedication to my community, to keep it safe.

Give me, Lord, concern

for those who trust me...

and compassion for those who need me.

And please, Lord,

through it all, be at my side.

Author Unknown

AFSCME COUNCIL 4



Program

Introduction

Jody Barr, AFSCME Council 4 Executive Director

Council 4 Public Safety Committee

Derek Puorro, Middletown Police Local 1361, Public Safety Chairman

Presentation of Colors

CT State Correction Locals 387, 391, 1565

Pipes and Drums

Middletown PBA Pipes and Drums

AFSCME Council 4 Memoriam

Honor the Fallen

National Anthem

Ray Munroe, CT Department of Corrections

Invocation

Artie Kassimis, Reverend
Norwalk Police Local 1727

Dinner

Presentation of Awards



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

AFSCME Council 4's **Law Enforcement Awards Dinner** is held biennially to honor distinguished law enforcement union members and their families. The purpose of the event is to honor police and correction professionals for their dedication to public service and to raise morale, mutual respect, and goodwill in the law enforcement community and beyond.

We salute our outstanding law enforcement members for their commitment to upholding the law and protecting our neighborhoods and communities. In doing so, they consistently risk their lives and make continuous sacrifices. We salute these officers for the knowledge, skills, and abilities that allow them to return home to their families, to continue to serve the public, and to join us here tonight to accept these awards.

We also honor the sacrifices made by our fallen heroes and their families. Their memory will forever inspire us.



**The 2023 Law Enforcement
Award Recipients**
Law Enforcement Awards

Officer Patrick Foley
Derby Police Union Local 1376

Detective Karli Travis
Middletown Police Union Local 1361

Detective Christopher Kiely
New Britain Police Local 1165

Officer Lawrence Overby
Stratford Police Union Local 407

Sergeant Joseph Maida
Stratford Police Union Local 407

Detective Stephen Santoro
Stratford Police Union Local 407

Lieutenant Robert Rosenbaum
Stratford Police Union Local 407

Officer John Facto
Stratford Police Union Local 407

Officer John Cannata
Stratford Police Union Local 407

Captain Anthony Rhew
Stratford Police Union Local 407

Detective Glynn McGlynn
Stratford Police Union Local 407

Honoring the courage of



**Officer
Alec Iurato**

Ofc. Alec Iurato joined the Bristol Police Department in 2018. He recovered from the injuries he sustained in the shooting and returned to work in September. In March 2023, the National Law Enforcement Officer Hall of Fame inducted Ofc. Iurato and presented him with their Courage in Service award at a ceremony in Toledo, OH.

In June 2023, the Bristol Police Department recognized Lt. DeMonte, Sgt. Hamzy and Ofc. Iurato as Police Officers of the Year.

The AFSCME Council 4 Law Enforcement Awards Committee is proud to pay tribute to Lt. DeMonte, Sgt. Hamzy and Ofc. Iurato who put themselves in harms way to keep their community safe. We will never forget their collective heroism.



Cheshire State Correction Employees Local 387

Correction Officer Sean Ross

On the evening of August 24, 2023, Correction Officer (CO) Sean Ross was the only Officer assigned to work East Block 3 at the Cheshire Correctional Institute, a maximum-security state facility. When it came time to conduct the feeding, Officer Ross was going around the housing unit, cell-to-cell with an inmate worker passing out the dinner trays. When Officer Ross opened one of the cell doors, he noticed something wasn't right. That inmate became highly agitated as he exited his cell to take his dinner tray. Instead of the inmate grabbing his tray, he violently smacked it out of the inmate worker's hand. Officer Ross then grabbed his radio to call out a transmission (Code Blue) looking for assistance. Before he could make the radio transmission, the inmate punched CO Ross multiple times in the face and body. During this unprovoked attack, the Officer lost his radio and had no way to call for help. The inmate wrestled with Correction Officer Ross and tried to get his keys, which would have given him the ability to open cell doors within that housing unit. Correction Officer Ross didn't panic, he gained his composure and was able to overpower the inmate and stabilize him to the ground. Ross was then able to secure his radio and call for backup. Officer Ross's actions, and stamina to ultimately overpower the inmate, prevented any further serious consequences from occurring. We are proud of the courage he displayed on this day.

Correctional Officer Sean Ross' bravery rose to the level of recognition for the Connecticut Correctional Plaque Award.



Bridgeport Police Union Local 1159

Officer Erica Illescas
Officer Adam Szeps
Officer Daniel Ortiz
Officer Jeremy Scialdoni

On April 13, 2023, Officers responded to Seaside Park where in the presence of hundreds of civilians at the beach two parties were reportedly shot.

While enroute to Seaside Park, Officer Illescas received information that a shooting suspect was operating a Silver Ford Explorer. As Officers began canvassing the area, Officer Scialdoni came across a gunshot victim who attempted to flee. Once Officer Scialdoni approached the victim that was shot, he observed that the victim was bleeding from his leg. The Officers located the Silver Explorer traveling at a high rate of speed driving the wrong way towards the entrance gate of the park.

Officer Ortiz then retrieved a description of the suspect and suspect vehicle. While canvassing the area, Officer Ortiz eventually located the suspect in his vehicle stopped in traffic. Officer Ortiz approached the suspect vehicle from the passenger side and as Officer Ortiz began to question the suspect, the suspect crossed over a center median at a high rate of speed, almost striking him.

As the chase continued, Officer Szeps and the suspect became involved in a collision, which ended with both vehicles facing head-to-head. Officer Szeps quickly exited his cruiser with Officer Illescas who took the shooting suspect into custody.

If not for these Officers' determination, observations and swift actions, this incident would have escalated. Thus, Officer Erica Illescas, Officer Adam Szeps, Officer Daniel Ortiz and Officer Jeremy Scialdoni will be awarded with the Law Enforcement Plaque.



Bridgeport Police Union Local 1159

Officer Jammal Vaughn
Officer Erica Illescas

On July 2, 2023, Officer Jammal Vaughn responded to a street fight located at the downtown area of Bridgeport. Upon arrival, Officer Vaughn came across a large crowd and assisted with crowd control by dispersing the crowd. Officer Vaughn heard several shots being fired in the vicinity and sprinted through the crowd and towards the sound of the gunfire.

Officer Vaughn found a gunshot victim who reported that he had been shot several times. Officer Vaughn and Officer Illescas who was assisting in the search applied lifesaving medical treatment to the victim by applying tourniquets to stop excessive bleeding from multiple gunshot wounds that ranged from a large gaping wound in the victim's right arm, left hand and right femur.

Officers Vaughn's and Illescas' quick response and selfless acts of running towards imminent danger of gunshots being fired and quickly applying immediate lifesaving medical treatment to a gunshot victim showed bravery and courage. Officer Jammal Vaughn and Officer Erica Illescas will be awarded the Law Enforcement Plaque.

In Memoriam



K-9 Barrett

End of watch June 1, 2023



Montville Officer Dan Witts (AFSCME Local 2504) and his K-9 German Shepard, Barrett, were not only best friends, they were brothers working side-by-side in the line of duty until Barrett's death on June 1, 2023, by euthanasia.

Barrett was the first and only K-9 with the Montville Police Department. Ofc. Witts spent most of his 8 years on the job with K-9 Barrett, dedicating hours and hours to his training. Both partners were there for each other during critical moments.

While responding to a car crash in May 2020, K-9 Barrett was alerted to the presence of an illegal substance. After fentanyl was discovered in the vehicle, K-9 Barrett became unresponsive. Ofc. Witts was able to save him by acting quickly and administering the opioid-reversal drug Narcan. K-9 Barrett was among the first working police dogs in the country to be saved using Narcan.

In December 2021, Ofc. Witts was investigating a car crash in Preston. After the suspect fled and pointed a gun at Ofc. Witts, K-9 Barrett chased the suspect who was later apprehended. Sadly, during this encounter, K-9 Barrett was assaulted and suffered brain bleeds and seizures from his injuries. Police believe this led to his untimely death.

K-9 Barrett never got to retire but his legacy lives on. His life was honored during a ceremony in Norwich surrounded by his fellow officers who carried their canine partner away in a flag draped casket. And Ofc. Witts was gifted by friends a mixed media painting of K-9 Barrett by artist David Holzemer, along with a Medal of Bravery for K-9 Barrett's apprehension of the suspect who almost killed him.

K-9 Barrett was central to the fabric of the Montville Police Department and a beloved member of the Witts family. His brave service to the Montville community and heroic acts that helped save lives will continue to be cherished, remembered and inspire others. A Special Recognition plaque will be presented to K-9 Barrett at the Council 4 Law Enforcement Awards Dinner.



CT State Correction Employees Local 391

Correction Officer Zachary Catala

On June 10, 2023, Officer Zachary Catala reported for his shift in the Q-Pod housing unit at MacDougall Walker Correctional Institute where he was posted as a unit rover along with his partner. While supervising a unit filled with sixty inmates, Officer Catala heard his partner call for assistance over the radio after an inmate became hostile and responded to assist without hesitation. The inmate then turned his aggression towards Officer Catala; striking him once in the face, rendering him unconscious on the unit floor with significant facial injuries. Officer Catala bravely placed himself in danger in order to protect his co-worker and suffered a severe injury at the hands of a violent offender.

His actions prevented another staff member from being assaulted at the price of injury to himself.

Correctional Officer Zachary Catala's actions and bravery rose to the level of recognition for the Connecticut Correctional Plaque Award.



CT State Correction Employees Local 391

Correction Officer Burnett Pollock

On June 7, 2023, in Osborn Correctional Institution's Veteran Dogs Program housing unit; an inmate was acting erratically enclosing himself in his room covering his window. When the door was opened, the inmate began shouting at staff disregarding all verbal intervention. The inmate was directed to release the dog and instead of complying with verbal directions decided to pull away from staff and assaulting the Vet Dog forcefully pulling on its leash in a strangling manner causing the dog to elevate off the ground violently.

The inmate then took an aggressive stance towards the responding officers, at which time the supervisor determined use of force was required. The supervisor directed responding officers to apply handcuffs onto the inmate and the inmate actively resisted the officers and became assaultive attempting to strike the officers. The supervisor deployed chemical agent to gain compliance, which was unsuccessful.

Officer Burnett-Pollock was one of those officers assisting with securing the inmate to a fixed surface to apply handcuffs, sustaining an injury to his right shoulder and being exposed to chemical agent.

Officer Burnett-Pollock was escorted to the medical unit for decontamination and medical evaluation. Medical staff deemed it necessary for him and another officer to receive further medical treatment at Johnson Memorial Hospital where it was discovered after an MRI, Officer Burnett-Pollock was diagnosed with a torn rotator cuff and tendinosis.

Officer Burnett-Pollock has yet been able to return to duty while currently receiving physical therapy treatments on a weekly basis hoping surgery will not be required.

Correctional Officer Burnett Pollock's actions and bravery rose to the level of recognition for the Connecticut Correctional Plaque Award.



CT State Correction Employees Local 391

Correction Officer Thomas Kruzel

While on duty at the Carl Robinson Correctional Facility, Correction Officer Tomas Kruzel swiftly responded to a challenging situation in the inmate dining area. There, he encountered an inmate who was resistant to staff instructions, adamantly refusing to vacate the premises. Officer Kruzel promptly issued verbal directives to the inmate in an effort to ensure compliance, yet regrettably, the inmate persisted in disregarding these orders.

Undaunted by the escalating tension, Officer Kruzel continued his valiant attempts to de-escalate the situation. However, the inmate's behavior took a violent turn, resulting in a physical altercation where Officer Kruzel was struck in the face. Subsequently, the inmate escalated the violence further by assaulting Officer Kruzel, choking him by wrapping his hands around the officer's neck.

Fortunately, the situation was swiftly brought under control by the arrival of fellow officers, who courageously intervened to halt the attack on Officer Kruzel. Following this harrowing ordeal, Officer Kruzel was promptly transported to the hospital for medical treatment to address the injuries he had sustained.

This incident serves as a stark reminder of the persistent and inherent dangers that our dedicated correctional officers encounter as part of their daily service to ensure the safety and security of our correctional facilities.

Correctional Officer Thomas Kruzel actions and bravery rose to the level of recognition for the Connecticut Correctional Plaque Award.



Derby Police Union Local 1376

Officer Patrick Foley

On the morning of April 26, 2021, Officer Foley, was in route to an extra-duty assignment. He was traveling on Division Street, and came to the area of Atwater Avenue, when he saw two men running towards him, cutting through yards. Both men began to bang with their fists on his cruiser, yelling and demanding his help.

As Officer Foley began to exit his cruiser, one of the men, without warning, drew a pistol and began firing at a passing vehicle.

Officer Foley, without hesitation, drew his sidearm and engaged the man, firing four shots—striking the male three times. Officer Foley then held the assailant at gun point until backup arrived. Once the male was secured, Officer Foley then provided the male with life saving measures treating his wound.

It was later determined that the male encountered by Officer Foley was under the influence of drugs, and the passing vehicle he shot at was an uninvolved, random passerby.

If not for Officer Foley's presence and swift actions, one could easily assume that this incident could have escalated exponentially with greater harm. Officer Patrick Foley is rightfully awarded the Law Enforcement Award.



Middletown Police Union Local 1361

Detective Karli Travis

On the morning of August 12, 2023, Detective Karli Travis, while working a patrol shift, responded to a complaint of a male outside smashing windows. Upon arrival, Detective Travis saw the suspect holding a hammer. She calmly asked him to drop the hammer before speaking with her.

The suspect was very hostile from the start, refused commands to drop the hammer, and immediately charged her in a full sprint. Detective Travis then drew her pistol and began shooting at the suspect as he began attacking her. Even though the suspect, who was much larger than Detective Travis, was aggressively striking her multiple times with the hammer, Detective Travis remained in control of the situation and continued to shoot the suspect. She struck him multiple times, which caused him to stop attacking her and retreat into his house.

From the time Detective Travis arrived on scene, until she was done shooting him was less than 30 seconds.

Detective Karli Travis' quick actions and bravery that day rose to the level of recognition for the Law Enforcement Award.



New Britain Police Union Local 1165

Sergeant Ryan Coleman
Sergeant Matthew Mroczko
Lieutenant Donald Anderson
Detective Jason Walker

On February 7, 2020, officers were attempting to take into custody a violent felon who was also the suspect in a string of robberies. The officers, acting on information provided by a confidential informant that the suspect was in possession of a firearm, conducted a motor vehicle stop. The suspect attempted to reach for his gun along with physically resisting while officers were trying to take him into custody. The officers put themselves in a great deal of harm's way during the lengthy physical confrontation that took place. The suspect was taken into custody and found to be in possession of a loaded .38 caliber revolver.

Based on the actions of these Officers, they showed tremendous courage and bravery in this situation and are rightfully deserving of the Law Enforcement Plaque.



New Britain Police Union Local 1165

Detective Christopher Kiely

Detective Christopher Kiely was involved in an officer involved shooting on January 6, 2021. Det. Kiely was/is assigned to an FBI Violent Crimes Task Force. He and his partners were working in Hartford and arresting a wanted person who had a federal arrest warrant. During the warrant service, an unrelated vehicle rammed their vehicle and the occupant fled on foot. The occupant/suspect fired upon Det. Kiely and his partners. Det. Kiely and an FBI Agent returned fire striking the suspect. The suspect later died as a result of the shooting.

Detective Christopher Kiely's quick actions and bravery that day rose to the level of recognition for the Law Enforcement Award.



New Britain Police Union Local 1165

Officer Tyler Grant

Officer Tyler Grant was with the Newington Police Department then transferred to New Britain Police Department. Officer Grant was the first responding officer who noticed smoke billowing out from the Grantmoor Motor Lodge. Officer Grant called dispatch to let them know if he could get some help. Officer Grant quickly realized the magnitude of the fire and within three to four seconds the fire flashed over the whole room and just engulfed the whole room. The officer's main concern was to get everybody out of those rooms. Officer Grant went door to door trying to do what he could before the firefighters arrived on scene.

Officer Tyler Grant's quick actions and bravery in this situation earn Officer Tyler Grant the Law Enforcement Plaque.



New London Police Union Local 724

Lieutenant Cornelius Rodgers

On April 21, 2023, Lt. Rodgers was off duty, as he was getting onto Interstate 95 on the Goldstar Bridge when he came upon a serious motor vehicle accident. A vehicle had struck an oil truck causing it to flip over and igniting the fuel that began spilling out, Lt. Rodgers stopped his vehicle and immediately ran to try and assist. As he approached one of the vehicles involved in the accident, he observed there was an unresponsive occupant inside the vehicle. Lt. Rodgers attempted to open the driver's door, but it was too damaged in the crash. He ran to the passenger side of the vehicle and as the flames from the fuel were approaching the vehicle, he pulled the occupant from the vehicle and with the assistance of a passerby was able to pull the occupant to safety and out of the path of the burning fuel. Shortly after, the vehicle was engulfed in flames.

Lt. Rodgers displayed extreme heroism, character and a relentless life-saving commitment under enormously challenging conditions.

Lieutenant Cornelius Rodgers' quick actions and bravery that day rose to the level of recognition for the Law Enforcement Plaque.



New London Police Union Local 724

Officer Michael Lewis

On October 21, 2021, New London Emergency communication received multiple calls for a motor vehicle accident involving a vehicle that struck a pedestrian in the City of New London. Upon arriving, Officer Lewis immediately began to triage the female victim and recognized that she had a compound fracture of her tibia/fibula on her right leg just above her ankle from his training as a Firefighter/Licensed EMR. Officer Lewis observed the wound had begun to bleed on the roadway and requested Paramedics and EMS to respond to the scene. Officer Lewis then observed that the rate of flow from the wound began to increase. Knowing that he needed to stop the bleeding he obtained a tourniquet. He explained to the victim, who did not speak much English, what he was doing in an attempt to calm her as he placed the tourniquet above her right thigh. Officer Lewis' application of the tourniquet stopped the bleeding from the victim's injury. Officer Lewis assisted medical personnel with the packaging of the victim's wounds and preparing her for transport to a medical facility.

Officer Lewis is a former Firefighter/Licensed EMR and a United States Marine who was awarded a purple heart for injuries sustained in Iraq.

Officer Michael Lewis' quick actions and courage, as demonstrated in saving the female's life, rose to the level of recognition for the Law Enforcement Plaque.



New London Police Union Local 724

Officer Seth Bolduc

On August 14, 2023, New London received a 911 call from a frantic woman pleading with someone to drop a knife and not to hurt themselves. Dispatchers quickly learned that it was a mother talking to her 17-year-old son who was armed with a knife and experiencing suicidal ideations. When Officer Bolduc arrived, he was directed to the bathroom where they located the 17-year-old victim lying on the floor bleeding from the neck. He was suffering from a stab wound with an arterial bleed. Officer Bolduc located a towel and began applying pressure on the victim's neck attempting to prevent further blood loss.

Officer Bolduc's ability to remain calm and think clearly served as the deciding factor in preventing the loss of a life.

Officer Seth Bolduc's quick actions and courage as demonstrated in saving the victim's life rose to the level of recognition for the Law Enforcement Plaque.



CT State Correction Employees Local 1565

Correction Officer Christina Deeter

On April 24, 2020, during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic within correctional facilities, Officer Christina Deeter of Corrigan Correctional Center suffered a violent, premeditated assault by two inmates while attempting to facilitate her unit's evening feeding. When she unsecured the cell door to provide the meal, both inmates forced their way out of the cell. She attempted to subdue the first inmate as he ran down the unit stairs towards the officer's station in an attempt to enter the officer's station and gain access to the control panels.

As the inmates approached the officer's station, they assaulted another officer, leaving him temporarily incapacitated. She immediately intervened, stopping the inmates from causing further harm to her partner. While doing this, she was attacked from behind by the other inmate and thrown to the floor. She was able to continue to not only defend herself, but also protect the other officer in the unit against two inmates simultaneously until additional responding staff were able to arrive on scene.

Christina suffered multiple injuries during this incident, some of which are still complications she deals with today. Her consort suffered only minor injuries due to her immediate action. She was able to defend the other officer and prevent the inmates from entering the officer station and potentially take over the unit control panels. She was successful in preventing a potentially even more serious incident from occurring due to her efforts on that day.

Correctional Officer Christina Deeter's quick actions and bravery that day rose to the level of recognition for the Correctional Preservation of Life Award.



CT State Correction Employees Local 1565

Correction Officer Timothy Titus
Correction Officer Jose Diaz

On August 22, 2023, at Garner Correctional Institute, Officer Diaz and Officer Timothy Titus were escorting an Administrative Segregation inmate to his recreation period when the inmate stabbed Officer Titus in the neck with a homemade weapon, narrowly missing his jugular vein. Officer Diaz immediately stepped between Officer Titus and the inmate and physically engaged him to prevent further injury to Officer Titus. While engaging with the inmate, Officer Diaz was stabbed with the homemade weapon, which punctured his uniform shirt, but luckily did not puncture his chest. Officer Diaz's immediate action prevented his partner from possible death. Officer Diaz did this with total disregard for his own safety in an extremely dangerous situation.

Correctional Officer Timothy Titus' and Jose Diaz's quick actions that day rose to the level of recognition for the Correctional Preservation of Life Award.



CT State Correction Employees Local 1565

Correction Officer Ciara Baker
Correction Officer Thomas Membrino

On July 29, 2021, Officers Cierra Baker and Thomas Membrino, like all officers reporting to work that day, showed up for their overtime shift not knowing what the day would bring. Little did they know that by the end of their shift, they would be instrumental in saving the life of their coworker in a life or death incident. Around 7:15 am a nurse was performing her rounds and was providing vital checks on the offenders in her care. As the nurse finished assessing an offender and was exiting the area, the offender attacked the nurse from the rear, locked his arms around her neck, and began to strangle her. Without hesitation, Officer Membrino jumped into action and attempted to pull the offender off the nurse. Officer Baker observed Officer Thomas Membrino actively engaged with the offender, attempting to force the offender to release his arms. Officer Baker responded swiftly and delivered four well placed strikes to the offender, which resulted in him releasing his strangle hold from the nurses neck. The nurse was able to retreat to safety as both officers continued to try and restrain the assaultive inmate. Both officers were able to secure the inmate without the assistance of additional staff. The actions of both officers were not only heroic, but they undoubtedly saved a life on that fateful day.

Correction Officers Ciara Baker's and Thomas Membrino's quick actions and bravery that day rose to the level of recognition for the Correctional Preservation of Life Award.



Stratford Police Union Local 407

Captain Anthony Rhew
Sergeant Joseph Maida

On July 24, 2023, Stratford Police received a call that a boat had struck the breakwater at the mouth of the Housatonic River at Long Island Sound. Captain Anthony Rhew and Sergeant Joseph Maida responded in the department police boat and found a boat with 8 people onboard that hit the breakwater at high speed and sustained serious damage injuring the 8 people on board.

Maida was able to maneuver the police boat close to the injured people. He administered medical care, transferred them to the police boat and transported them to The Birdseye Boat Ramp, where they were attended to and transported to the hospital.

Captain Rhew and Sergeant Maida risked their own safety at night in a less than friendly environment to save 8 people from a heavily damaged boat in The Housatonic River.

The quick actions and bravery of Captain Anthony Rhew and Sergeant Joseph Maida that day rose to the level of recognition for the Law Enforcement Award.



Stratford Police Union Local 407

Sergeant Joseph Maida

On May 18, 2022, Officers responded to a Wellness Check/Disturbance. The Officers knocked on the door and a mentally ill man answered the door and was agitated. The man kept opening and closing the door until he appeared at the door with a large hunting type knife and walked toward one of the officers. Sergeant Joseph Maida deployed his taser and prevented the other officer from being injured.

Sergeant Joseph Maida's quick actions and bravery that day rose to the level of recognition for the Law Enforcement Plaque.



Stratford Police Union Local 407

Detective Stephen Santoro
Detective Glynn McGlynn
Lieutenant Robert Rosenbaum
Officer Lawrence Overby
Officer John Facto
Officer John Cannata

On February 5, 2021, at approximately 7:30 p.m., Stratford Police Department Officers blocked a Dodge Charger. The Charger had stopped behind a civilian vehicle at a red traffic signal. Stratford Officers approached the Charger intending to take the suspect into custody on a felony arrest warrant. The suspect, who was in possession of a loaded handgun, refused to comply with officers' repeated demands that he show his hands. When officers realized that the suspect had a gun, they fired shots into the Charger as it went down a snow-covered embankment. The car became stuck on a guardrail and was disabled in the snow.

The suspect fled the vehicle on foot. He headed toward a civilian vehicle while pointing the gun at Stratford Officers. Stratford Officers fired additional shots at the suspect, fatally wounding him. At some point during the encounter, Hagans fired his gun one time.

Lieutenant Robert Rosenbaum, Detective Glynn McGlynn, Detective Stephen Santoro, Officer Lawrence Overby, Officer John Facto and Officer John Cannata did an outstanding job keeping the community they serve as well as each other safe from a Violent Felon. I would like to award these Officers with the Law Enforcement Award.



Wallingford Police Union Local 1570

Officer Aaron Grimaldi

On August 19, 2023, Officers were dispatched to a residence in Wallingford. The Officers observed a medical alarm activated for a residence within the apartment complex with the front entry door being cracked open. The Officers entered the apartment yelling "Police" but did not receive an answer. Officer Grimaldi discovered the bathroom door inside the apartment was locked. The officers were able to unlock the bathroom door but as they opened the door someone from inside slammed it shut. The Officer continually announced their presence asking the person inside the bathroom if they needed medical attention. The male inside the apartment started yelling and throwing items inside the bathroom. Officer Grimaldi drew his firearm, and the male aggressively exited the bathroom went into the bedroom and slammed the door. The Officers went into the hallway, as the male quickly exited the bedroom while holding a flashlight. The male aggressively went towards the officers who were in the hallway. Officer Grimaldi noticed the male was only wearing underwear and was not armed with a weapon. The male exited his apartment and approached Officer Grimaldi to attack him. Officer Grimaldi deployed his taser striking the male in the chest/torso area. The male then grabbed the taser prong ripping it from his chest.

While the male was pulling out the Taser prongs, the officers put more distance between themselves and the male. Officer Grimaldi unloaded his discharged Taser Cartridge and re-loaded the Taser to keep cover on the male. The male was arrested.

Officer Aaron Grimaldi's quick actions that day rose to the level of recognition for the Law Enforcement Plaque.



**We pray when its time to go inside,
that place of steel and stone,
We pray that you will keep us safe.**

BE SAFE

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We pray that while Police Officers are keeping our communities safe, they keep themselves safe.

BE SAFE



**We would like to thank you all for
keeping our Communities safe and
protecting the Citizens of Connecticut**

AFSCME, Council 4



HONORING THOSE WHO PROTECT

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