



THE CHAMBER ALX'S  
**2023**  
**VALOR AWARDS**

**Thursday, June 1**

The 2023 Valor Awards marks the business community's 37th year celebrating the heroic acts of Alexandria's first responders.

Presented by

**Inova Alexandria Hospital**

37th year celebrating the heroic acts

# VALOR AWARDS

RUN OF SHOW

## WELCOME

Nicole McGrew  
Owner, Threadleaf & Company  
2023 Chair, The Chamber ALX

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

Jacquelyn Olson  
Alexandria Sheriff's Office

## MAYORAL REMARKS

Justin Wilson  
City of Alexandria

## PRESENTING SPONSOR REMARKS

Dr. Rina Bansal  
President, Inova Alexandria Hospital  
Senior Vice President, Inova Health System

## AWARD PRESENTATION

Peggy Fox  
Media/Community Relations Manager, Dominion Energy

## CLOSING

Joe Haggerty  
President & CEO, The Chamber ALX



LEFT: Alexandria Fire Department Lieutenant John T. Locke and his wife share a moment of pride after he received a gold medal for his bravery. The occasion was the first annual Alexandria Chamber of Commerce program honoring police officers, fire-rescue personnel and the Sheriff's Office. The gold medal is the highest award in recognition of an act of bravery involving extreme personal risk.



ABOVE: Alexandria Firefighter Antoine Johnson receives the Life Saving Award in 2022.



LEFT: Alexandria Police Officer Peter Laboy receives a Silver Medal at the 2013 Valor Awards. Officer Laboy is flanked by Adron Krekler and John Renner.

BELOW: Honor Guard presents the flags at the 2019 Valor Awards.



# THANK YOU!

## EVENT SPONSORS

### Presenting Sponsor



**INOVA**<sup>®</sup>

Inova Alexandria Hospital

### Community Sponsor



**Dominion Energy**<sup>®</sup>

### Registration Sponsors



**NOVA**

Northern Virginia  
Community College

### Friend Sponsors



MID-ATLANTIC PERMANENTE  
Medical Group

**SIMPSON**



### Patron Sponsors

Offender Aid and Restoration of Arlington, Alexandria and Falls Church

Redmon, Peyton & Braswell LLP

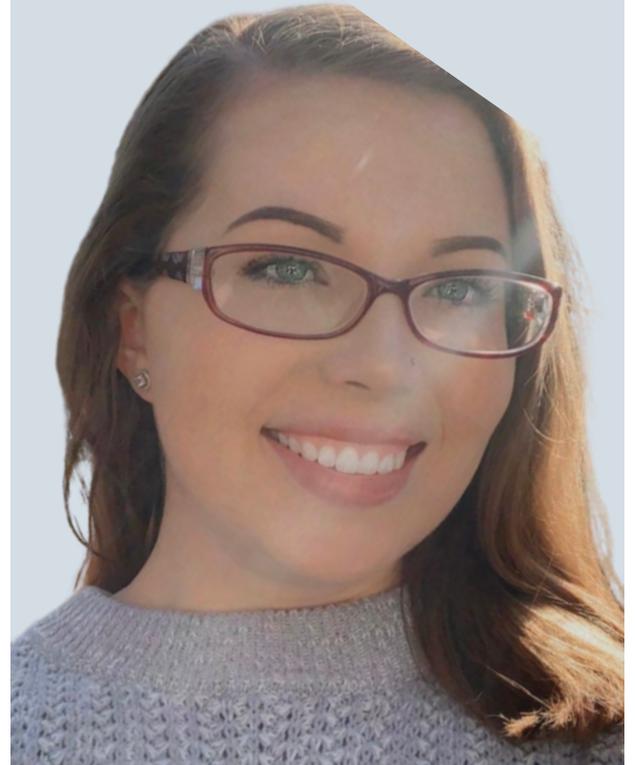
## INCIDENT ONE

# NEWBORN DELIVERY

SEPTEMBER 22

On the morning of September 22, Public Safety Communications Officer Autumn Harding fielded a 9-1-1 call from a husband whose wife was about to go into labor. Within 47 seconds of the call, Officer Harding had two resources from Alexandria Fire Department responding. As the scene became increasingly frantic, Autumn encouraged the father to stay on the line and provided pre-arrival instructions. Within 3 minutes and 40 seconds, the baby had been born. Once first responders arrived, the family was transported to the hospital for evaluation.

Officer Harding's ability to fall back on her training resulted in a successful at-home delivery. For this incident, Autumn Harding is receiving a Life Saving Award.



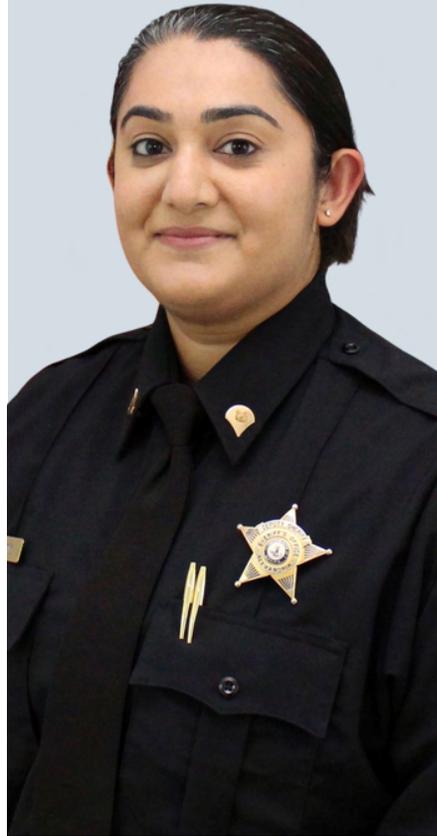
Public Safety  
Communications Officer II  
Autumn Harding



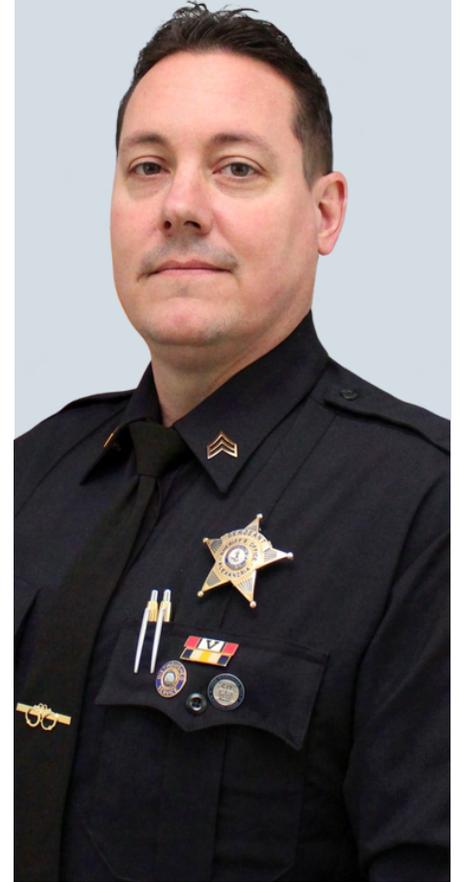
## INCIDENT TWO

# INMATE RESCUE

AUGUST 28



*Master Deputy  
Hafsa Munir*



*Sergeant  
Brian Wade*

Shortly after midnight, on August 28, an inmate who had been booked into the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center experienced a medical crisis. Master Deputy Hafsa Munir was working in the booking area and observed the crisis through security monitors. Sergeant Brian Wade responded after Deputy Munir called for help. Sergeant Wade worked quickly to rescue and escort the inmate for evaluation. Protocols were put into place to keep the inmate safe for the duration of incarceration.

Deputy Munir's attentiveness and Sergeant Wade's swift actions prevented the death or serious injury of an inmate. For this incident, Hafsa Munir and Brian Wade are receiving Life Saving Awards.



**INCIDENT  
THREE**

**TEAM  
RESCUE**

MARCH 10



*Deputy  
Joseph Walker*



*Sergeant  
Victor Ignacio*



*Captain  
Dave Cutting*

On the morning of March 10, Deputy Joseph Walker was on duty at the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center when he texted an off-duty colleague. During the text exchange, he noticed something off with his colleague's responses and that immediate help was necessary. Deputy Walker made telephone contact with his colleague and notified his commander. Sergeant Victor Ignacio and Captain Dave Cutting were assigned to take over the phone conversation and begin crisis negotiations. The team worked in conjunction with Emergency Communications to track and locate the telephone connection. Crisis negotiations spanned 20 minutes as police personnel made their way on site.

Deputy Walker, Sergeant Ignacio, and Captain Cutting's ability to identify a concern, establish rapport, and rely on their instincts, enabled them to rescue one of their own. For this incident, Joseph Walker, Victor Ignacio, and Dave Cutting are receiving Life Saving Awards.



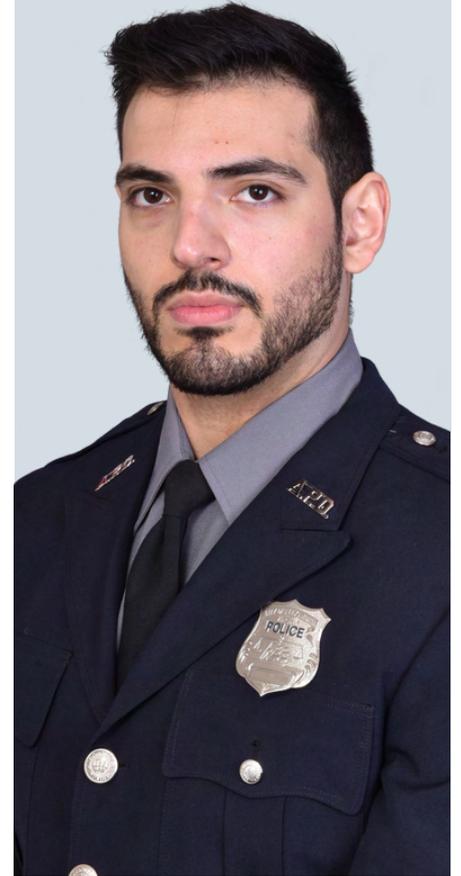
## INCIDENT FOUR

# GUNSHOT RESCUE

JULY 7



*Officer  
Lemar Gardizi*



*Officer  
Daniel Zapata*

On July 7, officers responded to a "weapons violation" call in Old Town. When Officers Lemar Gardizi and Daniel Zapata arrived on scene, they located a victim suffering from a gunshot wound to the upper thigh. Realizing the severity of the injury, they immediately rendered aid and placed a tourniquet on the victim. They kept the individual alert until Alexandria Fire personnel arrived. Treating doctors indicated that the bullet had struck a significant artery, which within 5 minutes could have been fatal.

Officers Gardizi and Zapata's quick actions saved the life of a citizen of our community. For this incident Lemar Gardizi and Daniel Zapata are receiving Life Saving Awards.

THE ALEXANDRIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
**LIFE SAVING AWARD**

*Michael Ambrose*

PRESENTED TO

**FIREFIGHTER & EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN**

Hereby commended on this day of June 8, 2022, in recognition  
of acts taken where an individual's life was in physical or  
medical jeopardy

*Joseph V. Haggerty*

Joseph V. Haggerty  
President & CEO  
The Chamber ALX

**THE  
CHAMBER  
ALX**



# INCIDENT FIVE

## BURGLARY TURNED DOUBLE HOMICIDE RESPONSE

JULY 16

On the morning of July 16, Officers Adam Bing, Phillip Morse, and Robert Honaker were dispatched to a burglary in progress at a large apartment complex fairly close to Fairfax County. Upon arrival, officers learned that the suspect had fled from the burglarized unit. Officers believed the suspect could be the same offender from a previous incident. Since a handgun was used during the previous incident, officers were now looking for a potentially armed individual running free through a large apartment building. Units requested a canine team, but Alexandria units were unable to deploy. Alexandria reached out to Fairfax County Police for support and Officer Kevin Gemmell and K9 Ajax reported to the scene.

Officers worked to clear the building and associated parking garage. A second call for "shots fired" was received from a property two buildings away. This team responded and discovered two deceased construction workers. The complainant provided a description which matched the suspect of the burglary. As additional resources arrived at the scene, this team continued the search.

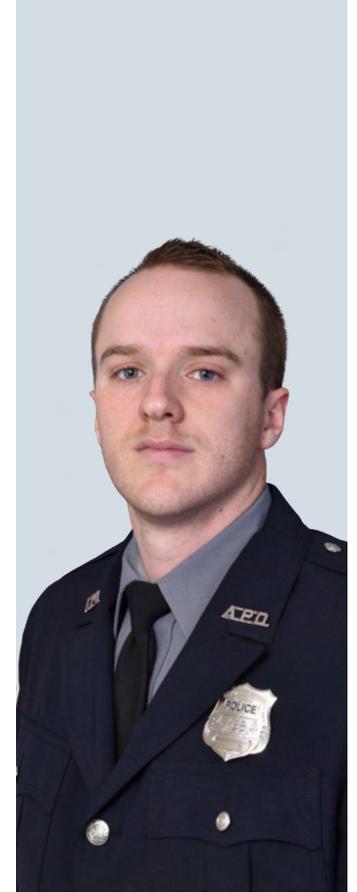
A third burglary call came from a woman who had barricaded herself in a room with her son. The team entered the building and apartment, taking cover and bounding. After three attempts to access the apartment, the woman and her son emerged. Officer Morse placed himself between the family and the apartment door.

Knowing the suspect may attempt to flee the unit from inside, Officer Gemmell made the difficult decision to send K9 Ajax into the scene. Ajax disappeared into the back rooms of the apartment. The team heard screaming and discovered Ajax had caught the suspect. An arrest was made, a weapon seized, and the reign of terror concluded.

Officers Adam Bing, Robert Honaker, Phillip Morse, and Kevin Gemmell, having never met before, worked together in the face of almost certain injury and possible death. For this incident, Adam Bing, Phillip Morse, Robert Honaker, Kevin Gemmell, & Ajax are receiving Silver Medals.



*Officer  
Adam Bing*



*Officer  
Phillip Morse*

*Fairfax County  
Master Officer  
Kevin Gemmell  
& K9 Ajax*

*Officer  
Robert Honaker*





THE CHAMBER

**VALOR  
AWARD**

Presented  
Intra

**INCIDENT  
SIX**

**INFANT  
RESCUE**

**AUGUST 22**

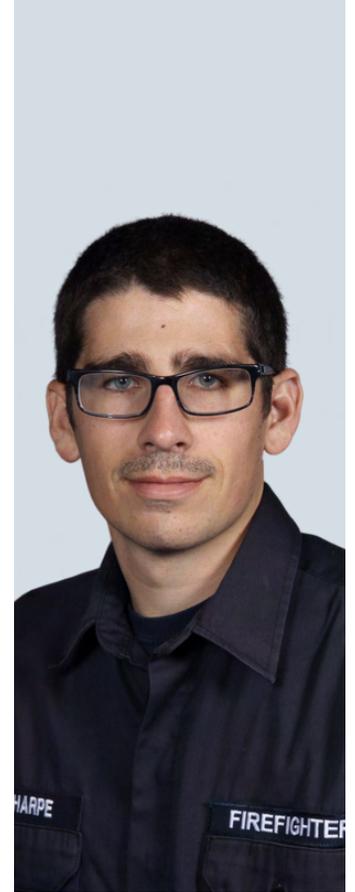
During the early morning hours of August 22, Alexandria Fire Department Engine 205 was dispatched for a fire alarm activation. As the crew pulled up to the door of the 5-story apartment building, a person was observed laying in the vestibule of the building across the street. The team called out to the person, who began screaming and kicking the doors. The crew also observed the person was holding an infant to their chest and may have a chemical impairment.

Captain Jeffrey Taylor directed Lieutenant Jason Sharpe and Firefighter Antonio Tizol to investigate the fire, while Firefighter Joseph White remained in the vestibule. Shortly after calling for police back-up, the individual began to roll, continuing to clutch the infant. The child stopped moving and the reassembled crew of four, having called police, acted fast to rescue the small child. The crew moved the infant out of the vestibule and restrained the individual until police arrived. The crew evaluated the infant and called for a truck to remove smoke from the other building.

Captain Jeffrey Taylor, Lieutenant Jason Sharpe, Firefighter Antonio Tizol, Firefighter Joseph White acted quickly to asses two concurrent scenes and incidents. Their rapid response and attentiveness saved the life of a child. For this incident, Jeffrey Taylor, Jason Sharpe, Antonio Tizol, and Joseph White are receiving Life Saving Awards.



*Captain  
Jeffrey Taylor*



*Lieutenant  
Jason Sharpe*

*Firefighter  
Antonio Tizol*



*Firefighter  
Joseph White*



## COMMUNITY VALOR AWARD

# LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA) has accompanied those in need throughout the DMV since 1917. Motivated daily by their belief in the inherent dignity of all, LSSNCA's innovative participant-informed programs serve refugees, forced migrants, immigrants, children, and underserved communities. They piloted initiatives like the area's first camp for kids impacted by HIV/AIDS and pro se asylum workshops for Afghan and Ukrainian refugees. LSSNCA also provides employment training, which has led to hundreds of job placements with community partners.

This year, LSSNCA opened a West End based community hub for program participants. The Resource Center provides cultural orientation, engages various support groups, and is their donation collection site. Their donation list includes personal hygiene items, home & kitchen goods, and infant & children necessities.

In recognition of their commitment to the underserved population of the region, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area is receiving the Community Valor Award.



# THE CHAMBER ALX

Supporting Businesses & Cultivating Community

2022



1987



2017



2018



2020



2013



2019



1987

