

THE CHAMBER ALX'S

**2020
VALOR
AWARDS**

PRESENTED BY
INOVA ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL
AUGUST 27, 2020

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PROGRAM

Welcome

Joe Haggerty

The Chamber ALX

Mayor's Remarks

Mayor Justin Wilson

City of Alexandria

Presenting Sponsor

Dr. Rina Bansal

INOVA Alexandria Hospital

Awards Presentations

Joe Haggerty

Mayor Justin Wilson

INCIDENT
ONE

JULY 2018

**Sergeant Zygmund Slevinski,
Officers Sara Thomas, Lorenzo
Hardy, Luis “Henry” Segura, and
Loren Smith-West to receive
Certificates of Valor.**

Officers deescalated a violent citizen experiencing a medical crisis in Old Town. Officers retraced the steps of the citizen and discovered a victim who, despite receiving medical aid from the responding officer, later succumbed to their injuries. Officers brought resolution without additional injuries to their team and the hundreds of people out in Old Town at that time.





INCIDENT
TWO

DEC 2018

**Sergeant Michael Vaccaro to
receive a Bronze Medal.**

An armed man opened fire in Old Town in December of 2018. Sergeant Vaccaro arrived on the scene, placed himself between the gunman and citizens, then defused the threat. Sergeant Vaccaro performed life saving measures at the scene after putting himself at risk of death to protect the citizens of Alexandria.



INCIDENT
THREE

APR 2019

Lieutenant Henry Cook, Firefighter John Ashby, Firefighter Peter Hunter, Lieutenant Sokthear Van, Firefighter/Medic Ryan Kilner, Firefighter Rudy Thompson, Firefighter Dylan Kempton, Firefighter/Medic Lindsey Loper, Paramedic Lori Taylor, EMS Captain Bryan Meckes, Fire Captain Andy Beckett, Firefighter James Swanick, Firefighter Tara Blunt, Captain John Silverwood to receive Life Saving Awards

In the early hours of the morning, engines responded to a fire on South Pickett Street. They forced entry into the home, ascended the stairs, and simultaneously deployed ground ladders to the third floor to locate a missing senior in the structure. They located the deceased victim and removed him from the structure. Despite no reports of additional unaccounted occupants, they continued an aggressive search of the structure. During this search they located an additional unresponsive male and called for additional assistance to remove him from the building and provide life saving measures. The skills of this team saved a man's life, rescued several animals, and kept fire damage contained.





INCIDENT
FOUR

MAY 2019

Public Safety Communications Officer Shavaughn Priestly-Smith to receive a Certificate of Valor.

Communications Officer Priestly-Smith received a call from an intoxicated 12-year-old. She aided him in getting to a safe location, while gathering information on the whereabouts of other intoxicated minors. Priestly-Smith was able to send officers to assure the safety of these other pre-teens.



INCIDENT
FIVE

JULY 2019

Public Safety Communications Officer Latoya Wilson to receive the Certificate of Valor.

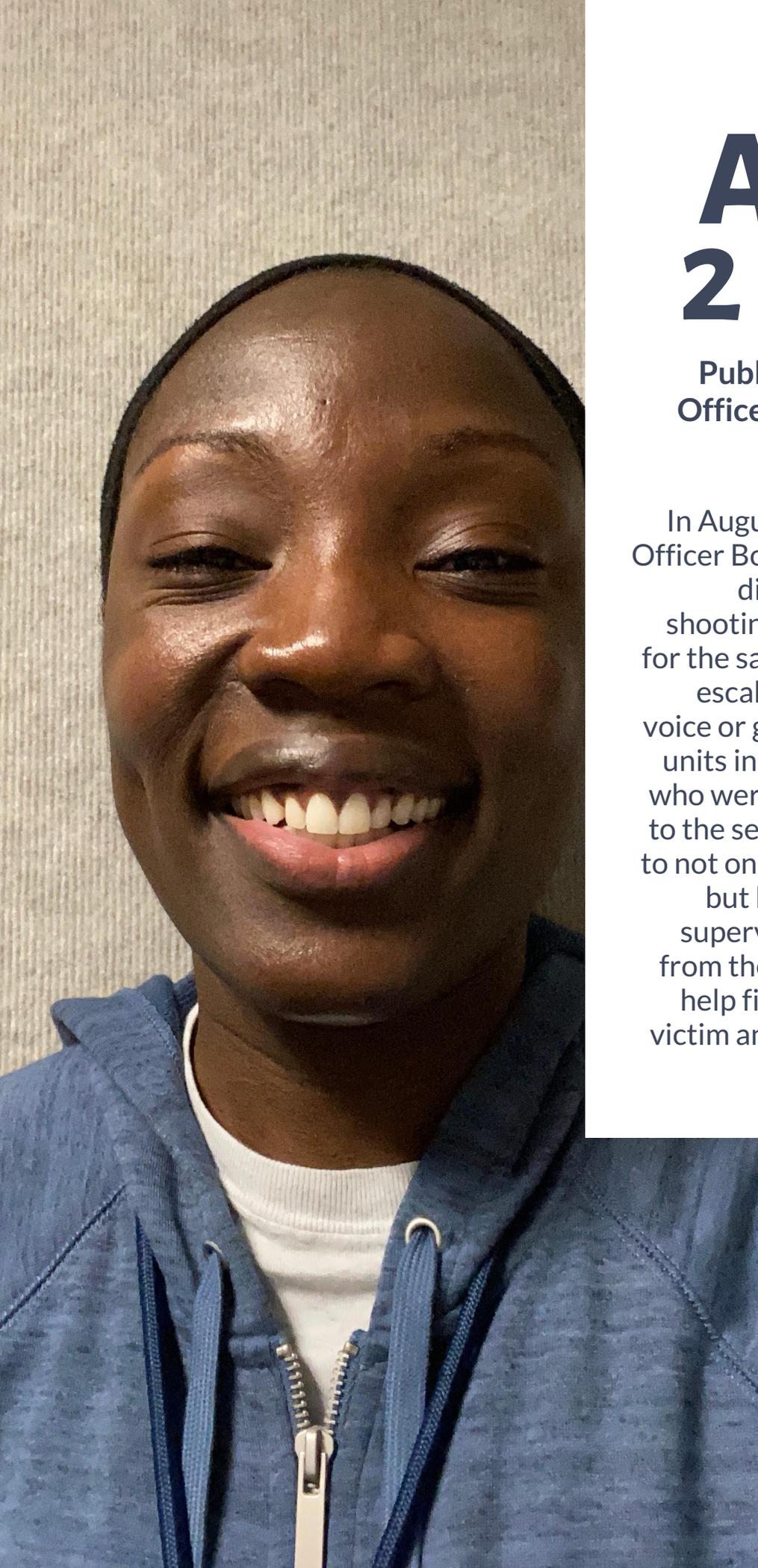
Communications Officer Wilson received a call for a smoke odor coming from a residence building. During the call, she advised the caller to pull the fire alarm and evacuate the building. The caller followed the instructions, which allowed the residents to evacuate without being harmed. The Fire department extinguished the flames and provided medical assistance to one injured resident.



AUG 2019

Public Safety Communications Officer Valerie Bonsu to receive the Certificate of Valor

In August of 2019, Communications Officer Bonsu was working with Police dispatch radio in response to a shooting when a second call came in for the same incident. As the situation escalated, Bonsu never raised her voice or got frustrated with the police units in her ear or fellow co-workers who were providing her with updates to the second call. Bonsu also worked to not only respond to her original call but keep fire dispatchers and her supervisors notified of the updates from the second call. She was able to help fire and police units locate the victim and get him safely transported for medical care.

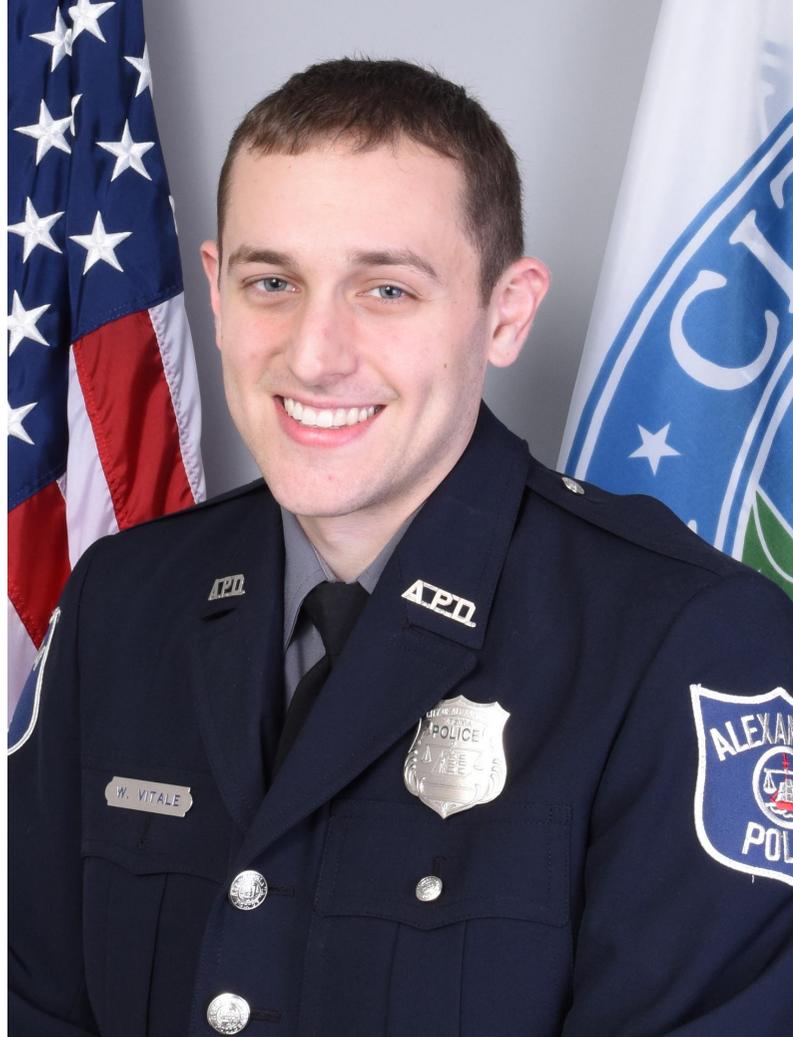


INCIDENT
SEVEN

SEPT 2019

Officers Wesley Vitale and Lisa Kolodzinski come to receive Life Saving Awards.

Officers responded to a 911 call from the spouse of a possible suicide in progress. Officers communicated through the door and window to receive permission to access the property. Once inside the citizen became violent and demanded the officers shoot him. The officers peacefully comforted the individual and were able to get the subject to share his troubles. After de-escalating the situation, he was transported the Alexandria hospital.





INCIDENT
EIGHT

OCT 2019

**Deputy Devon Neckles and
Officer Shakita Warren to
receive Life Saving Awards.**

A welfare check was requested for a citizen who had not reported to work in October of 2019. Officer Warren was on her way, but Deputy Neckles indicated she was nearby and volunteered to assist. Deputy Neckles, a Crisis Intervention Team member and instructor, used his training to speak with the unnerved citizen and exit the residence. Officer Warren arrived on the scene and aided in calming the scene. Officers entered the home with the resident, who shared a completed suicide note and multiple firearms.

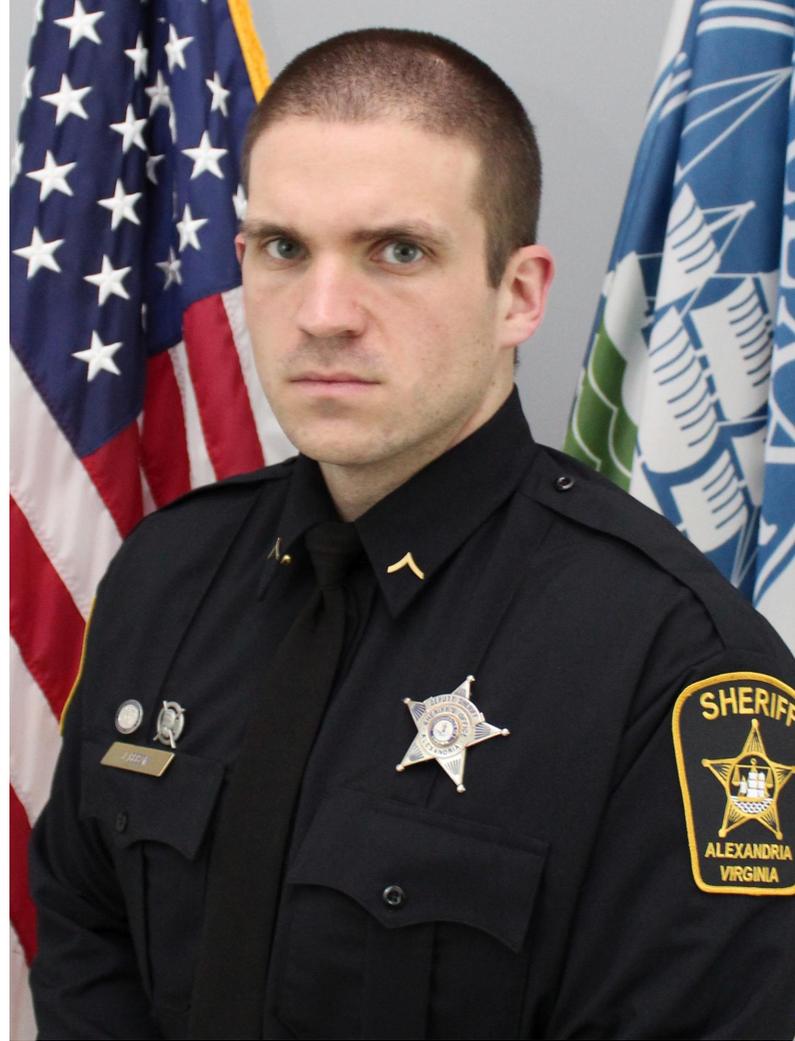


INCIDENT
NINE

NOV 2019

Deputies Jason Bebow and Julio Ocasio to receive Life Saving Awards.

While performing regular checks at the Adult Detention Center, Deputy Bebow and Ocasio discovered a suicide in progress. The deputies called for medical personnel and began life saving measures. Their work resuscitated the individual prior to the medical teams arrival.





INCIDENT
TEN

DEC 2019



Captains Jason Kuehler and Eric Whitmore and Firefighters Tyler Degenhardt Sandy Godsey to receive Life Saving Awards

Engines responded to an automatic fire alarm in a four-story building on Patrick Street. Residents were self-evacuating with informed by a resident that her infant was still inside the building. Teams entered the building and forced entry to the third floor, where confronted with heavy floor to ceiling smoke with nearly zero visibility.



They confined the fire to the kitchen and initiated a search ahead of the hose line. The infant was located, evacuated from the building, and transferred to EMS for treatment and transport.

INCIDENT
ELEVANT

JAN 2020

Alexandria Police Officer Sara Thomas and Arlington Police Corporal Nicole Pehrson to receive Life Saving Awards.

In January of 2020, Alexandria Officer Thomas and Arlington Corporal Pehrson were off duty when they observed 15' flames across the street from their residence. After closer inspection, they discovered a neighbor's garage was on fire and spreading. Officer Pehrson contacted 911 and Officer Thomas made her way to evacuate the family inside. Corporal Pehrson rallied the children and mother who were attempting to reenter to recover pets. A gasoline can combusted during these efforts. The family of five and their three pets were successfully removed from the residence prior to the fire departments arrival.



PANDEMIC
AWARD

**Senior Services of Alexandria's
Meals on Wheels team to receive a
Certificate of Valor.**

Senior Services of Alexandria has gone above and beyond to serve the senior population during the current medical crisis. Traditionally they provide two meals a day to 100 residents and serve over 700 seniors with other programs.

With added mobility restrictions for all residents of Virginia, they have tripled their community impact to over 2,000 citizens.

Depending heavily on volunteers to aid them in their initiatives, Senior Services of Alexandria has made a dramatic difference for one of this pandemic's most vulnerable populations.

MEALS ON WHEELS



PANDEMIC
AWARD

SUPPORT SERVICES

INOVA Alexandria Hospital's Support Services Team to receive a Certificate of Valor.

Daryl Walker, Senior Director of Support Services at Inova Alexandria Hospital leads a high-functioning support services team inclusive of the following departments: Environmental Services, Biomedical, Food and Nutrition, Safety and Security, Emergency Management, and Materials Management. Daryl's team plays a critical role at the hospital around the clock and rose to the challenge presented by the pandemic by adapting the hospital's operations to promote the safest environment possible for patients and team members.

Team: Daryl Walker, Ed Gomez, Kelly Edwards, Paul Brown, Adam Silvis, Feleke Bezabeh, Daniel Teka



**INOVA Alexandria Hospital's
Inpatient Team to receive a Life
Saving Award.**

INPATIENT

Ruth Lee, Senior Director of the Adult Inpatient Services and Jalil Bentaleb, Senior Director, Neuro-Spine Services and Unit 26, have been servant leaders at Inova Alexandria Hospital guiding their teams who have courageously stayed on the front lines to care for patients. The inpatient team members continue to remain focused on providing safe and high-quality care and have surrounded their units with countless demonstrations of commitment, teamwork and compassion.

Team: Ruth Lee, Jalil Bentaleb, Ray Suglo, Natasha Desmond, Patti DeStefano, Kate Theissen, Justina Barclay, Maria Ibrahim



PANDEMIC
AWARD

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND CRITICAL CARE

INOVA Alexandria Hospital's Emergency Department and Critical Care Team to receive a Life Saving Award.

In a time of crisis, the Inova Alexandria Hospital Emergency Department and Critical care teams were willing to walk toward uncertainty to care for the most vulnerable among us. The teams led by Freddi Brubaker, Senior Director of Emergency Services and Merebeth Richins, Senior Director, Critical Care Services, worked long shifts to save lives even in the darkest hours, yet have remained resilient and strong for each other and our community.

Team: Freddi Brubaker, Vanessa Johnson, Michelle Wrieden, Winnie Frempong-Boye, Gina Patel and Kristen Marge



PANDEMIC
AWARD

City of Alexandria's Health
Department to receive a
Life Saving Award.

The City of Alexandria's Health
Department has been working tirelessly
to educate the public on how they can
best protect themselves from exposure.

Outside of providing resources to the
community, they've partnered with Visit
Alexandria to establish the "ALX Promise"
program, where they meet 1-1 with
businesses to provide training to reopen
their business. Over 300 businesses
have been able to re-open their doors
with this additional seal of safety.

ALEXANDRIA HEALTH DEPARTMENT





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