

2014 Valor Awards — Emotionally Disturbed Person

On March 16, at 3:04 p.m., officers were dispatched to the 4300 block of King Street for reports of a disorderly subject. Callers were reporting that a man was yelling and jumping on the roof of a car. One caller stated the disorderly man had grabbed a female's arm in front of her children and told her that she was a slut. The female was able to break free and run for safety. Another caller reported that the subject was the driver of a car that had suddenly stopped in traffic. He had exited his car, charged at another car and done a belly flop onto the car's hood. The subject then began jumping on the hood and the roof of the car and hitting the windshield causing significant damage. The driver, in fear of his life, drove away as quickly as possible.

Officer Raymond "Ray" Golden was the first officer to arrive on the scene. As he approached in his cruiser, he observed heavy traffic with multiple cars stopped in the roadway. Officer Golden couldn't see what was going on, but could hear someone yelling "F*** the Police" over and over again. As he got closer, the disorderly subject spotted the Officer Golden's police cruiser. The subject belligerently ran toward the cruiser's driver's side door. The subject was in his 20s, six feet tall and more than 270 pounds. Officer Golden opened his door and attempted to exit his cruiser. However, the subject was too close. He quickly realized that the subject was an Emotionally Disturbed Person (EDP). Fearing for his safety, Officer Golden pointed his Taser at the subject and told him to back away from the police cruiser. The subject continued to yell "F*** the Police" while charging at Officer Golden, who was still trapped in his police vehicle.

Officer Golden fired his Taser at the subject. This momentarily caused the subject to back away allowing Officer Golden to exit his cruiser. To his dismay, the Taser had limited effect on the subject and he continued to maintain his standing position even after being hit with the electrical charge. The subject turned and ran west on King Street causing the Taser wires to disconnect. He began threatening innocent by-standers and drivers caught in the traffic jam. Officer Golden chased the subject and attempted to communicate with him in hopes of getting his attention and compliance. The subject ignored him and continued to threaten those around him. Officer Golden decided to try the Taser again and fired a second time. He hit the subject squarely on the back. This time, the subject staggered and fell against a vehicle, which quickly drove away from the danger. This caused one of the two Taser wires to disconnect. The subject turned around and started charged Officer Golden. Officer Golden had loaded his final Taser cartridge and pointed it at the subject as he ordered him to the ground. The subject got on the ground and began to yell not to tase him. Suddenly, the subject bolted up and began to run towards Officer Golden. He discharged his Taser once again and struck the subject in the chest area. This caused the subject to stagger and get to his knees, but he continued to attempt to get up and charge the officer. Officer Golden had to keep giving the subject a charge to prevent him from rushing towards himself and innocent bystanders. Soon two other officers arrived on the scene and were able to place the aggressive subject in custody. During the arrest, the subject was shouting, "Kill me now. Cut off my head. I want to walk barefoot with God. I am God. I turn water to wine". The subject was taken to Inova Alexandria Hospital. Toxicology tests returned negative and a TDO was issued.

Officer Golden encountered an extremely dangerous subject who was out of control and threatening the lives of innocent citizens. Given the situation and ineffectiveness of the initial Taser deployment, Officer Golden would have been justified in escalating his force options accessible to him. Officer Golden is credited for saving not only the citizens from harm, but also the life of the subject by using the least amount of force to affect an arrest.

Officer Raymond Golden is awarded the Silver Medal.



Raymond Golden