

2014 Valor Awards — Wall Collapse

In the early morning hours of October 26, Medic and Engine 205 were dispatched for a report of a brick wall collapse that had trapped a 21 year-old victim. When they arrived on scene, Medic and Engine 205 discovered an intoxicated man lying on the ground a few feet away from a pile of debris and bricks. He said that he had been chasing a cat when he tried to climb the wall and it had collapsed. The victim was alert and oriented with abrasions to his arms, knees and chest. He didn't have any clear signs of severe injury, but was complaining that it hurt when he tried to take a deep breath.

Instead of dismissing the patient as drunk or assuming his lack of obvious injuries meant he wasn't hurt, Medic Kohrt and his partner, Medic Remi Howell, performed a full trauma assessment. They decided to transport the patient to George Washington University Medical Center, instead of the closer Inova Alexandria Hospital, which is not a Level 1 Trauma Center.

Upon arrival, the trauma team was not initially sure the victim needed to be there. That changed once they saw the results of a CT scan. The scan showed the patient had a severe laceration on his liver and was bleeding into his abdomen. He was rushed to the operating room where he received several units of blood and his liver was repaired.

The medics' decision to drive a few extra miles and take some extra time with this victim while nearing the end of a 24-hour shift may have saved his life. The head of the Trauma Department for George Washington University Medical center called the case nothing short of remarkable adding, "The teamwork that it took to keep this kid alive (starting with EMS) is the reason that he is alive."

Medics Remi Howell and Michael Kohrt are awarded Life Saving Awards.



Remi Howell



Michael Kohrt