

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

A weekly update for residents, visitors, and workers in the District of Columbia



Friday, February 28, 2014

EXCEPTIONAL EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED AT MPD'S 14TH ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

For the fourteenth year in a row, the Metropolitan Police Department honored outstanding police officers, civilian employees, agency partners and community members who have helped to make DC neighborhoods safer over the past year. More than 60 individuals and organizations were recognized during the MPD's 14th Annual Awards Ceremony, held Thursday evening, February 20, at Gallaudet University's Elstad Auditorium, at 800 Florida Avenue, in Northeast DC.

For his heroic response during the events of September 16, 2013, at the Washington Navy Yard, Special Operations Division **Officer Dorian DeSantis** received the Department's **Blue Badge, Medal of Valor, Medal of Honor** and **Officer of the Year Award**. Officer Dorian DeSantis was among the first group of ERT personnel to arrive. He entered the building and was quickly directed to the third floor, where first responders had last heard shots fired. Upon arriving on the third floor, Officer DeSantis was directed to the area where Officer Williams had been shot. Officer DeSantis teamed up with two United States Park Police (USPP) Officers. He directed one of the officers to provide cover at the intersecting hallways leading into the area in which Officer Williams had been shot. Officer DeSantis, with the other USPP officer, then entered the area and began searching for the shooter.

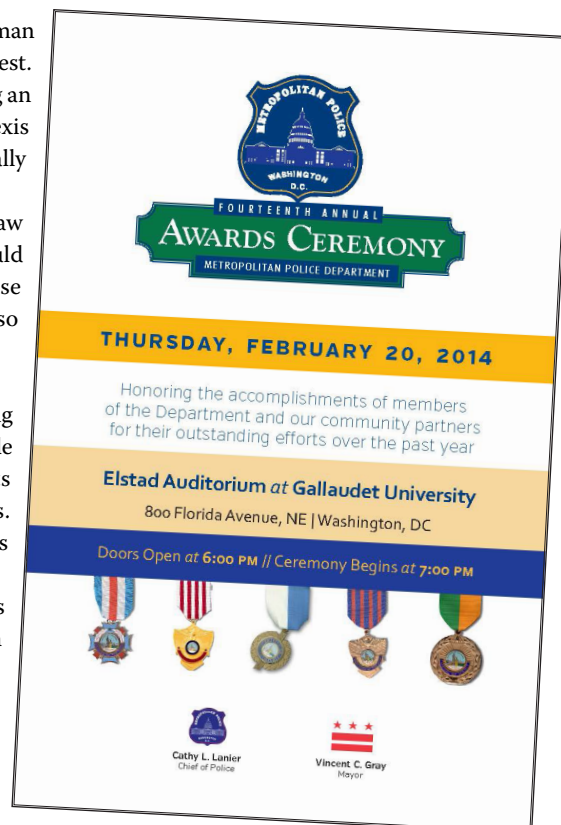
As Officer DeSantis rounded the partition to the last bank of cubicles, the gunman appeared just a few feet in front of him and fired, striking Officer DeSantis in the chest. Officer DeSantis immediately returned fire, neutralizing the gunman and putting an end to the tragic incident. Fortunately, the round fired from the handgun by Alexis was contained in the body armor worn by Officer DeSantis, preventing potentially serious or even fatal injury.

If it were not for the heroic and selfless actions of all the responding law enforcement personnel, especially Officer Dorian DeSantis, the gunman would likely have continued his murderous actions and taken many more lives. For these reasons, Officer Dorian DeSantis is awarded the Metropolitan Police He is also awarded the 2013 Officer of the Year.

Other awardees recognized by the MPD include the following:

- The **Detective of the Year Award** was presented to **Detective Dwayne Partman**. During 2013, Detective Partman was assigned five homicide cases, including a double homicide case. Detective Partman successfully secured arrest warrants closing four 2013 cases, as well as two prior year (2012) homicide cases. Detective Partman also served as acting sergeant for the squad on numerous occasions, training new detectives assigned to the squad.
- The 2013 **Sergeant of the Year** was **Sergeant James Boteler**. Under Sergeant Boteler's supervision, the 12-member Crime Suppression Team (CST) has been instrumental in enhancing the safety in the Third District. During 2013, the CST was responsible for over 750 arrests; 45 gun recoveries; the seizure of over \$15,000; the execution of approximately 30 search warrants; and seized over \$100,000 in drugs.
- The MPD recognized **Lieutenant Vendette Parker** of the Sexual Assault Unit (SAU) as the **Lieutenant of the Year**. Last year, the SAU underwent sweeping changes after a review of the department's handling of sexual assault cases. Lieutenant Parker partnered with her officials and developed an extensive training to address the needs of the department in effort to move forward and better serve those in need. As a result of Lieutenant Parker's work and dedication to cultivating change, the department has shifted as such, that the unfortunate victims of sexual assault can rely on unparalleled assistance from the SAU.
- **Inspector Morgan Kane** was named the 2013 **Captain of the Year**. Inspector Kane was a captain in the

» Download the program book with details about all of the 14th Annual Awards Ceremony honorees online at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/heroes>



Fifth District from December 2012 through most of 2013. Her influence on issues in the community, crime and community leaders, neighborhood groups, civic leaders, and others was apparent as soon as she arrived in 5D. She spent long hours, often personal time meeting with the community, neighborhood and civic leaders to develop a clear understanding of a myriad of concerns throughout the district. Inspector Kane established a more efficient process for the PSA Lieutenants to do a critical assessment of their respective areas which created a stronger group of leaders in the Fifth District. She was one of four Summer Crime Initiative captains, and through her efforts in the Edgewood neighborhood, showed a 28% decrease in violent crime under her leadership

- **Reserve Officer Tam Vieth** was named **Joseph Pozell Reserve Officer of the Year**. Officer Vieth has consistently demonstrated his commitment to the MPD through his volunteer service in the Special Operations Division as a Harley Davidson Motorcycle officer. He was instrumental in the Department's communications upgrades, especially with communications equipment in the helicopter fleet. Vieth volunteered to be an escort officer for the 2013 9-11 Anniversary Ride, riding 1,000 miles on his motorcycle over a 3-day period to ensure the safety of 1500 ride participants. Vieth consistently demonstrates his commitment to the reduction of crime within the city by actively participating in Reserve Corps activations.
- **Deborah R. Ennis Civilian Employee of the Year Award** was presented to **Leeann Turner**, Executive Director of the Corporate Support Bureau. Throughout 2013, Ms. Turner performed a myriad of activities associated with the operational effectiveness and efficiency of the department. Ms. Turner serves as the go-between for the MPD, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer and the Office of Budget and Planning. She consistently reviews and makes recommendations to the chief of police on financial policy related initiatives. Ms. Turner is always looking at ways to improve the efficiencies of optimizing overall performance in each unit of the MPD. Ms. Turner has outstanding interpersonal skills and her pleasant demeanor is downright contagious at times. In her oversight over the Human Resource Management Division, Ms. Turner reviews all Disciplinary Review Board investigations. She has revised hiring policies and practices to ensure fairness and has established attainable timelines to get personnel hired.

These individuals are just a few of the police officers, civilian employees and residents who were honored. In 2007, Chief of Police Cathy L. Lanier implemented a new approach to recognizing the Department's sworn and civilian members. Many members now receive their awards shortly after the commendable action. In 2013, 230 members received awards at one of her regularly-scheduled crime briefings.

Other awards include the Bureau Employees of the Year, for members who work within one of the MPD's seven Bureaus and exhibit standout qualities of leadership, work ethic and commitment to service; District Officer of the Year; School Resource Officer of the Year; Forensic Science Officer of the Year; and Master Patrol Officer of the Year. Several outstanding Units were also recognized. The Best Performing District was awarded to the **Second Police District** and **PSA 307** was recognized as PSA of the Year.

The Chief of Police Special Award is presented to community members who have excelled in supporting crime prevention and community policing, and the Chief's Medal of Merit is given to members of other agencies who have assisted the MPD in significant operations.

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Tell Us How We're Doing. MPD is now part of Grade DC. We invite you to share your thoughts on our service – positive or negative – through MPD's email groups, our social

media, or by visiting the Grade DC website. Get more information at <http://grade.dc.gov>.

Join the MPD Reserve Corps. The MPD Reserve Corps, a volunteer policing program is seeking new members. Applications are now being accepted at <http://dcpolicejobs.dc.gov>.

Preventing terrorism is everybody's business. If you SEE something, SAY

something. Call the MPD at (202) 727-9099 to report suspicious activity that has already occurred. Call 911 to report in-progress threats or emergencies. Learn how you can help fight terrorism at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/operationTIPP>.

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KAYLIN CASTELLI**, Manager of Internet Communications, at kaylin.castelli@dc.gov

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