



PRESS RELEASE

Warren Officers Honored with Prestigious Valor Awards for Heroic Acts - Six Officers Recognized by the Hundred Club of Detroit for Exceptional Bravery

The Warren Police Department is proud to announce that the Hundred Club of Detroit recently awarded the Valor Award to six Warren Police Officers for heroic actions on duty. This is by far the largest number of Warren Officers recognized by this prestigious organization. These officers were recognized at the annual 2024 Valor Awards Banquet held at the Detroit Athletic Club. Formed in Detroit in the 1950's by auto dealer and philanthropist William Packer, the Hundred Club gives financial assistance to the spouses, families, and children of first responders who are killed in the line of duty. Every year, the Hundred Club seeks nominations from police and fire departments in the area seeking to recognize those who displayed extraordinary acts of heroism in the line of duty. Nominations are then reviewed by the Hundred Club with the awardees receiving the Valor Award and an engraved Shinola Watch at the annual awards banquet. The Warren Police Department has been represented at this banquet the previous three years. This year, the Warren Police Department comprised 6 of the 33 total awardees. Receiving the Valor Award this year were Officer Brenden Fraser, Officer James Burke, Officer Elmondo Smith, Officer Arthur Rucinski, Officer Evan Dinkel, and Sergeant Chad Wolowiec.

Officer Brenden Fraser Saves Toddler's Life

On August 29, 2023, Officer Fraser was performing routine traffic enforcement in the area of 12 Mile and Schoenherr. It was at this point that Officer Fraser observed a Chevy Camaro traveling westbound on 12 Mile approaching Schoenherr at a high rate of speed, estimated at 75 to 80 mph by Officer Fraser. As Officer Fraser caught up to the Chevy and affected a traffic stop, Officer Fraser noticed that the driver began to wave his arms and flag him down. As Officer Fraser approached the Chevy, the driver frantically exclaimed that his 18-month-old nephew was not breathing. The child was turning blue and his eyes were rolled to the back of his head. Officer Fraser remained calm and immediately took charge of the situation by taking the child and performing several back-blows to clear the child's airway. After a few tense moments, the child eventually regurgitated a liquid and began to breathe on his own. Other officers arrived on scene and rushed the child to Ascension Macomb Hospital at 12 Mile and Hoover, one short mile away from the scene. The child was turned over to ER staff for further medical attention. By the next day, the child was already medically cleared and returned to his family. Officer Fraser acted heroically, decisively, and most of all empathetically as he worked to save this child's life. Most compelling is the fact that Officer Fraser remained ever humble and did not seek recognition for his actions.

Officers Burke and Smith Apply Lifesaving Aid to Stabbing Victim

On June 18, 2024, the Warren Police Department received a 911 call at an apartment complex regarding a stabbing. Officers Burke and Smith arrived on scene quickly and located the victim in the

parking lot of the apartment complex. Both officers immediately recognized that the victim was bleeding profusely from multiple penetrating stab wounds to his arm. Officers Burke and Smith began to render aid by applying a tourniquet to the victim's arm, which ultimately stopped the bleeding. Officers stood by the victim, kept him calm, and gathered suspect information until the arrival of the Warren Fire Department. Other officers arrested the suspect near the scene without incident. During follow up at the hospital, ER staff informed detectives that the quick and proper application of the tourniquet undoubtedly saved this victim's life. The victim was later discharged from the hospital and the suspect was charged with Assault less than Murder, a 10-year felony along with Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, a 4-year felony. Thanks to the officers' quick thinking and application of first aid, the victim survived this brutal attack.

Officers Rucinski, Dinkel, and Sgt. Wolowiec Stop Armed Threat

On April 12, 2024, Officers Rucinski and Dinkel were dispatched to a residence in Warren regarding a domestic disturbance. The caller reported that a family member on scene was assaulting other family members. Officers arrived on scene with Sgt. Wolowiec responding to the location a few moments later. Officer Dinkel entered the garage door and walked toward the front garage entry door to contact the residents inside. At this time, Officer Dinkel observed a male subject standing in the doorway with a handgun. Officers Rucinski and Dinkel exit the garage and run to the southwest side of the house wherein they are joined by Sgt. Wolowiec. A few short seconds later, the armed male runs from the garage towards officers. The male suspect aggressively advanced toward officers while brandishing a handgun. The male suspect then takes an offensive shooting stance and raises the handgun towards Officers Dinkel, Rucinski, and Sgt. Wolowiec. An officer-involved shooting then occurs. The male subject falls to the ground with his firearm falling out of his hand. Officers approach the male, handcuff him, with Sgt. Wolowiec performing CPR until Warren Fire Department (WFD) arrives. Other officers force entry into the home to check for injured victims however no persons inside are injured. The male subject is transported by WFD to Ascension Macomb Hospital wherein he is later pronounced deceased by Hospital Staff. While no doubt a tragic outcome that no officer wishes, the reality of this incident shows how all three officers' actions undoubtedly protected not only themselves and their fellow officers but also potential victims inside the residence. All officers on scene were focused on ensuring their fellow officers, the unknown persons inside of the residence, and the armed suspect received medical attention if necessary.

Department Leadership Commends Officers

Acting Commissioner Rushton praised the awarded officers, stating that "as you can see from the descriptions, these six officers exemplify what it means to go above and beyond in the line of duty to protect and serve the community. The Valor Award is highly coveted in law enforcement for what it symbolizes. I, along with every member of this Department, am very proud and excited that these officers were recognized by the Hundred Club for their exemplary acts on duty. The fact that we had six officers awarded with the Valor Award this year speaks to the hard work, dedication, and overall spirit of service every man and woman of this Department displays every day. I am confident that the Warren Police Department will continue to be well represented at next year's ceremony due to the high level of service provided by our men and women in uniform."

Once again, congratulations to Officer Brenden Fraser, Officer James Burke, Officer Elmondo Smith, Officer Arthur Rucinski, Officer Evan Dinkel, and Sergeant Chad Wolowiec for their exceptional bravery and dedication to the community!

Please see picture below

**For further information, please contact Warren Police
Commissioner Charles Rushton @586-574-4803 or 586-823-
9845**



Pictured above (left to right) are Officer Elmondo Smith, Officer James Burke, Officer Arthur Rucinski, Officer Evan Dinkel, Officer Brendan Fraser, Emcee Paul W. Smith, Sgt. Chad Wolowiec, 100s Club President William Packer, and Lt. Brent Chisolm. Officers are holding the boxes for the engraved Shinola Watch received as part of their Medal of Valor Award.