Norwalk Department of Police Service

Awards Ceremony

Thursday February 27, 2014
6pm
Norwalk Inn
99 East Avenue
Norwalk, CT

Program

Opening Remarks	Deputy Chief Susan Zecca
Color Procession	Norwalk Police Honor Guard
National Anthem	Detective Kristina LaPak
Invocation	Police Chaplain Reverend Carleton Giles (ret.)
Remarks	Mayor Harry Rilling
	Chief Thomas Kulhawik
Presentation of Awards	Deputy Chief David Wrinn
Benediction	Police Chaplain Reverend Robert Beinke
Musical Selection ***"God Bless America"***	Detective Kristina LaPak
Closing Remarks	Deputy Chief Susan Zecca
Retire Colors	Norwalk Police Honor Guard

Special thanks to the Norwalk Police Union and Norwalk Police Benevolent Association

Plaque of Appreciation

Det. Kristina LaPak

The Norwalk Police Department is pleased to honor Detective LaPak for her outstanding singing performances over the past 12 years throughout the region. Her performances have included singing at the State Capitol for the House of Representatives Inauguration in 2002 to performances at police memorials and a performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Detective LaPak has performed in uniform at the Harbor Yard in Bridgeport and has brought pride and renown to our department wherever she has appeared.

Meritorious Commendation Certificate

Off. Thomas Sullivan

Armed Suspect Arrest

On January 26, 2013 Officer Sullivan while on routine patrol, encountered a suspicious person in the area of a housing project carrying a large backpack which had an odd protrusion at its bottom. Officer Sullivan field interviewed the suspect who took flight on foot. The officer recovered the abandoned backpack which contained a Sten Mark III machine gun with 32 rounds in its magazine. The suspect was later located and arrested. A deadly weapon and a career criminal were removed from the city streets.

Meritorious Commendation Certificate

Det. James O'Leary

Burglary Arrests

On February 15, 2013 Detective O'Leary investigated a burglary to a motor vehicle. Following a trail of leads, Detective O'Leary was able to arrest a career burglar and recover over $60,000 worth of stolen merchandise, credit cards and US savings bond from several burglaries.

Meritorious Commendation Certificate

Lt. David O'Connor
Sgt. Joseph Dinho
Off. David Peterson
Off. James Wright
Off. William Matsen
Burglary in Progress

On March 16, 2013 then Sergeant O'Connor and then Officer Dinho, Officers Peterson, Wright and Matsen responded to a burglary in progress at a home on Strawberry Hill Avenue. After quickly forming a perimeter around the residence the officers entered the home and discovered a burglar hiding under a mattress. Their quick response and professional tactics led to the arrest of another career criminal.

Meritorious Commendation Certificate

Off. Javier Mogollon
Burglary Arrest

On March 31, 2013 a robbery was reported at a gas station on Main Avenue. After hearing a description of suspect vehicle on the police radio, Officer Mogollon took up a strategic position with his police vehicle and observed the suspect vehicle fleeing the scene. A felony stop was conducted, the suspect was apprehended and the stolen property was recovered without incident.

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Meritorious Commendation Certificate

Sgt. Charles Perez
Attempted Suicide

On June 27, 2013 Sergeant Perez received a phone call from a civilian informing him of an attempted suicide. Coordinating with NPD Communications, the Shelton Police Department and the civilian caller, Sergeant Perez was able to locate the distraught individual in her vehicle behind a building on Berkeley Street. The young woman had taken an overdose of prescription drugs and Sergeant Perez was able to stabilize her and call for medical assistance.

Meritorious Commendation Certificate

Off. Stephen Cowf

Arrest of Burglary Suspect

On July 16, 2013 while on routine patrol, Officer Cowf stopped a juvenile on a scooter who was carrying a backpack. The juvenile could not explain the origin of the scooter or some of the items in his backpack which included a Garmin GPS navigator device along with tools that could be used to commit burglaries. Subsequently, the GPS unit was connected to a recent car burglary. The scooter was stolen earlier but was not reported until the following day when the owner discovered it missing. As a result of his efforts, a juvenile was arrested.

Meritorious Commendation Certificate

Off. Mark Suda

Off. Richard Montañez

Off. Kyle Lipeika

Off. Jared Zwickler

Off. Thomas Sullivan

Off. Brian Barrett

Armed Subject

On August 16, 2013 Officer Suda of the Special Services Unit received information that a known subject was in possession of a handgun and was standing at the corner of Woodward Avenue and Sheridan Street. There was approximately thirty people loitering in the area when Officers Suda, Montañez, Lipeika, Zwickler, Sullivan and Barrett approached the subject. The subject was seen hiding an item under a vehicle before attempting to flee. He was quickly apprehended after a brief struggle and a .38 caliber revolver and sandwich bag of marijuana was recovered. The arrested subject had an extensive criminal history including Escape in the First Degree and Robbery.

Meritorious Commendation Certificate

Off. Kyle Lipeika

Off. Adam Mulkern

Armed Subject

On August 25, 2013 Officers Lipeika and Mulkern responded to a report of a large fight to the rear of the King Kennedy Housing Complex. They intercepted a subject running from the scene and checked him for weapons. The officers discovered a .380 semi-automatic handgun inside his second pair of gym shorts. Based on their efforts they prevented a tragedy from occurring if the gun had been used.

Meritorious Commendation Certificate

Off. Owen Lee
Off. Thomas Sullivan
Armed Subject

On September 20, 2013 Officers Lee and Sullivan engaged in a foot pursuit of a juvenile in the area of Colonial Village. During the pursuit, they observed a handgun fall from the suspect's waistband. The suspect was tackled and apprehended and a 9 millimeter Ruger semi-automatic handgun was recovered.

Meritorious Commendation Certificate

Off. Michael Dimeglio
Water Rescue

On September 24, 2013 Officer Dimeglio was dispatched to the Wee Burn Beach Club on a report of a 13 year old who was in the water up to his neck with his legs stuck between two large rocks. Officer Dimeglio entered the water and calmed the youth and assessed his injuries. With the assistance of EMS and Rowayton Volunteer Fire Department units, he was able to free the juvenile's leg from the rocks.

Meritorious Commendation Certificate

Sgt. Terrence Blake
Off. Paul Wargo
Off. Richard Holmes
Off. Michael Pugliese
Off. Stephen Cowf
Foot Pursuit & Arrest of Armed Subject

On October 17, 2013 at approximately 1:30 in the morning, Sergeant Blake observed two individuals who are known to have extensive criminal histories in the area of South Main and Raymond Street. One of the suspects quickly turned and walked away from Sergeant Blake. Sergeant Blake communicated his observations to Officer Cowf by police radio. As they approached the subject, he ran. Officer Cowf pursued the subject and tackled him. A .22 caliber Ruger semi-automatic handgun was immediately recovered. After a violent struggle, Officers Cowf, Wargo, Holmes and Pugliese gained control of the suspect and were able to handcuff him and take him into custody.

Meritorious Commendation Certificate

Sgt. Bruce Hume
Off. Larry Tiani
Off. James Wright
Off. Matthew Policastro
Attempted Suicide

On December 5, 2013 officers responded to a call of a disturbed woman who was armed with a handgun at a local apartment building. Sergeant Hume coordinated his officers, set up a perimeter and deescalated a volatile situation. Officers Tiani, Wright, Policastro and Martino entered the building where Officer Martino was confronted by a woman brandishing a .357 caliber revolver. The officer's team efforts and swift action prevented injury to the victim and the officers. They were also instrumental in confiscating two more firearms from the city streets one of which was an assault weapon.

Distinguished Service Award

Lt. Arthur Weisgerber
Cold Case Squad Investigation

Lieutenant Weisgerber as the officer in charge of the Detective Bureau's Cold Case Squad reviewed a 25 year old kidnapping and sexual assault case and discovered that new techniques in DNA testing might help identify the perpetrator. Lieutenant Weisgerber made a request to the State Forensic Science Laboratory and preliminary testing identified a suspect. He then obtained a search and seizure warrant for that suspect which positively identified him as the perpetrator of this crime which occurred in 1988. This suspect has subsequently been arrested and is currently incarcerated and being held on a $500,000 bond while awaiting trial. Lieutenant Weisgerber was able to bring closure to the victim due to his diligence and knowledge of serious case investigations.

Medal of Merit

Off. Kenny Fludd
Off. William Matsen
Medical Rescue

On March 17, 2013 Officers Fludd and Matsen responded to a medical call involving an unconscious 65 year old woman in her home. The officers utilized CPR and the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to revive the woman until the ambulance arrived. Their timely use of the AED played an instrumental role in saving her life.

Medal of Merit

Off. James Yturbe
Off. Paul Wargo
Attempted Suicide

On November 3, 2013 Officers Yturbe and Wargo responded to a residence on the report of an attempted suicide by hanging. When they arrived and entered the residence, they observed a young lady standing on a bed with a cord tied around her neck and attached to a ceiling beam. As they approached the young lady, she jumped off the bed with the cord tightening around her neck. Officer Yturbe held the woman up so she would not strangle herself while Officer Wargo was able to loosen the cord and remove it from her neck. The officer's quick response and decisive intervention saved the life of an extremely depressed young woman who was intent on committing suicide.

Police Service Cross

Sgt. Jeffrey Proudfoot
Off. Louis Proto
Off. David Busch
Off. Richard Ribisl
Foot Pursuit & Arrest of Armed Subject

On February 16, 2013 officers responded to the report of a fight on Washington Street. Upon arrival, Sergeant Proudfoot engaged one of the suspects who was believed to be armed in foot pursuit catching up to him in a parking lot. After a brief struggle, Sergeant Proudfoot, Officers Proto, Busch and Ribisl took the suspect into custody and recovered a loaded handgun.

Police Service Cross

Off. Joseph Martino
Attempted Suicide

On December 5, 2013 Officer Martino responded to a call of a disturbed woman who was armed with a handgun at a local apartment building. As Officer Martino entered the apartment buildings elevator, he was confronted by a woman brandishing a .357 caliber revolver. Officer Martino disarmed the woman by grabbing the gun and placing his finger between the cocked hammer and the firing pin.

2013 Officer of the Year

Off. Joseph Martino

Attempted Suicide

Officer Martino is being recognized as the 2013 Officer of the Year for his act of bravery on December 5, 2013 when he disarmed an emotionally disturbed woman of a cocked and loaded .357 caliber revolver.

Award Classifications

Medal of Honor

Awarded to officers who distinguish themselves by an act of heroism while/and exposing themselves to extreme physical injury. This shall be the department's highest award, and shall be presented only under extraordinary circumstances.

This citation bar shall consist of a green bar with a field of gold stars.

Police Service Cross

Awarded to officers who distinguish themselves by an act of bravery while exposing themselves to physical injury, or while engaged with an armed adversary, and exposing themselves to physical injury.

This citation bar shall consist of a yellow and blue bar with gold vertical divisions.

Medal of Merit

Awarded to officers who save the life of another.

This citation bar shall consist of a red bar with white stripes on each end.

Distinguished Service Award

Awarded to officers who distinguish themselves through outstanding and extraordinary police work and judgment beyond the scope of normal and reasonable expectations.

This citation bar shall consist of a white bar with blue vertical divisions.

Purple Heart

Awarded to officers, who in the line of duty, suffer physical injury. The degree of injury and totality of circumstances shall be the determining factors.

This citation bar shall be a purple bar.

Meritorious Commendation Certificate

Awarded to officers, when such criteria does not come under awards 1 though 4, yet personal recognition is deserved for excellent service to the community or department.