



FOURTH ANNUAL

AWARDS BANQUET



**CHARLESTON POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

**FEBRUARY 1ST, 2025
5:30PM
THE CHARLESTON PLACE**



THE CHARLESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

FOURTH ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

IS PLEASED TO WELCOME CAROLYN MURRAY AS OUR MISTRESS OF CEREMONY



CAROLYN MURRAY

CAROLYN MURRAY'S CAREER BEGAN SHORTLY AFTER GRADUATING WITH A BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN 1988. SHE WORKED FOR WPAL AM AND WMGL FM RADIO STATIONS. HER BROADCASTING CAREER THEN MOVED HER IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA IN 1989. SHE WORKED AT WCSC TV FOR 12 YEARS, WBBM TV IN CHICAGO FOR 2 YEARS AND THEN RETURNED TO CHARLESTON IN 2003 TO WORK AT WCBD TV WHERE SHE CURRENTLY ANCHORS THE 5, 6, 10, AND 11PM NEWSCAST MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.



THE LENS FOUNDATION OF CHARLESTON

KEEPING CHARLESTON SAFE AND STRONG

WWW.THELENSFOUNDATION.COM

Dear Esteemed Police Officers, Staff and Family Members of the Charleston Police Department and LENS Foundation Supporters,

On behalf of the LENS Foundation, I would like to express our deepest gratitude for the Charleston Police Department's unwavering dedication to the safety and well-being of our community. Your commitment to protecting and serving is truly commendable and does not go unnoticed. We are incredibly fortunate to have such committed individuals serving in our police force and we recognize the sacrifices you make daily, balancing the demands of your job with your personal lives.

As a foundation dedicated to promoting positive change, we appreciate your partnership and the collaborative efforts we have undertaken together. We look forward to continuing our support of your initiatives and working alongside you to strengthen the bonds between law enforcement and the community. We are also grateful for the opportunity to seek meaningful ways to support the Charleston Police Department team members. We are hopeful that this award ceremony, generously hosted by the Beemok Hospitality Collection and The Charleston Place Hotel, sends the message that the community you serve truly appreciates your commitment to keeping us all safe. Please extend our appreciation to every member of your department.

In addition, I would like to thank our supporters, with your generosity and commitment we have made significant strides in contributing to improving community relations and making Charleston safer for all. Each donation, whether large or small, has played a vital role in helping us achieve our goals. Together, and in partnership with local law enforcement, we are contributing to building a safer, more resilient Charleston. I would like to highlight one such contribution, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Ben Navarro, Mr. Darius Rucker, Mr. Adam Witty and Mr. Steve Palmer, the LENS Foundation will be purchasing two new police trained horses for the Charleston Police Department's Mounted Horse Patrol which will bring this unit up to 4 horses in 2025!

Finally, I would also like to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the executive committee members of the LENS Foundation and their unwavering support. This complete voluntary committee includes Brad Harvey, James Bosworth, Susan Matthews, Alison Hilton, Ted Kinghorn and our newly appointed treasurer, Robert Heller. Their contributions have been instrumental in our efforts to deliver on our mission.

As we look to the future, we remain dedicated to our mission. We have ambitious plans to expand our outreach and continue investing in initiatives that prioritize the safety and well-being of every resident and visitor.

Thank you for believing in our vision and for being an integral part of this journey. Together, we are making a difference, and together, we will ensure that Charleston remains a safe and thriving community for all.

With sincere appreciation,
George Reeth, Chairman of the LENS Foundation

EVENT PROGRAM

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

CHARLESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT HONOR GUARD

NATIONAL ANTHEM

CHARLES MILLER

INVOCATION

CHAPLAIN RICH ROBINSON
COASTAL CRISIS CHAPLAINCY

WELCOME

BEEMOK HOSPITALITY COLLECTION

DINNER

MISTRESS OF CEREMONY

CAROLYN MURRAY

MAYOR'S REMARKS

MAYOR WILLIAM COGSWELL

CHIEF'S REMARKS

CHIEF CHITO WALKER

YEARLY AWARD PRESENTATION

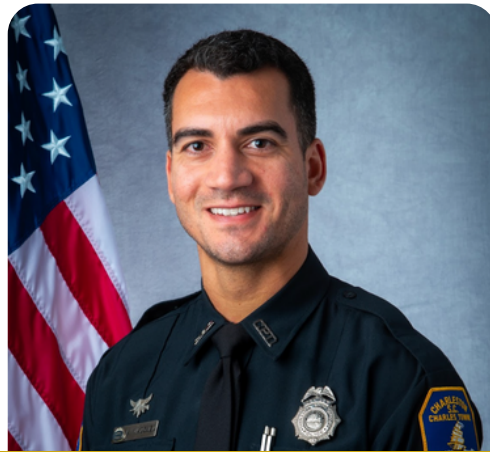
SPECIAL AWARD PRESENTATION

DESSERT RECEPTION

YEARLY AWARDS

OFFICER OF THE YEAR:

The Charleston Police Department Officer of the Year award is presented to an officer for outstanding service and deeds to the department, community, and profession.



ANTHONY VAZQUEZ

PROBATIONARY OFFICER OF THE YEAR:

The Charleston Police Department Probationary Officer is an officer with under two years of service. This award is presented to a probationary police officer for outstanding service and deeds to the department, community, and profession.



JOSHUA MASTERSON

YEARLY AWARDS

SERGEANT OF THE YEAR:

Any Sergeant, recognized by their peers who displays exceptional leadership, compassion, and vision. Sergeant of the Year can be nominated by anyone with direct knowledge and observation of the Sergeant's exceptional service.



PHILIP DUNFORD

DETECTIVE OF THE YEAR:

Any Detective or Investigator, who uses his or her experience and training to resolve an investigation that improves community trust and builds transparency. Detective of the Year can be nominated by anyone with direct knowledge and observation of the detective or investigator's sense of urgency and thoroughness.



BRANDON WINDHAM

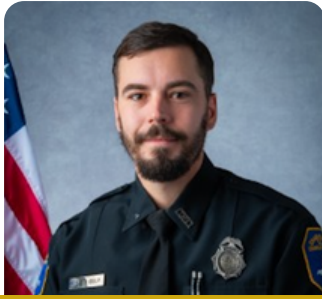
YEARLY AWARDS

TEAM OF THE YEAR:

The Team of the Year is awarded to any group of three or more persons assigned to the Police Department whose combined effort on a project, program, or extended work assignment significantly advances the mission and goals of the Charleston Police Department.



GRIFFIN BUNCH



JAMES CULP



JEREMY FIEDLER



DOUGLAS KELLEY

PROFESSIONAL STAFF EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:

The Charleston Police Department Professional Staff Employee of the Year award is presented to a staff member for outstanding service and deeds to the department, community, and profession.

DARIANA COGGINS

FORENSIC SERVICES EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:

This award recognizes civilian or sworn employees assigned to the Forensic Services Division. The recipient's contributions in their primary work assignment must show significant impact in support of the Forensic Services Division, the police department's mission and/or crime laboratory accreditation.



MARIA HEFFRON

YEARLY AWARDS

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR:

Recognition of Assistance to the Charleston Police Department Awarded to a citizen, who has shown himself or herself to be an asset to the Charleston Police Department. Their integrity, professionalism and dedication to the community is outstanding.



MICHAEL CONSTANZO

LENS AWARDS:

This award recognizes the Charleston Community Member and/or Charleston Police Officer or Staff Member who has gone above and beyond to support the mission of The LENS Foundation.



TERRENCE RENK



DR. JACK SCHAEFFER

DESCRIPTIONS OF SPECIAL AWARDS

CHIEF'S AWARD:

For an individual (sworn and/or professional staff) who goes above and beyond their regular job and makes a difference in helping further the mission and initiatives of our agency. This is awarded to a person or team who creates something new that solves a problem and does so with limited resources, resistance and difficulty.

LIFE SAVING AWARD:

Awarded for an act that prevents the loss of life of another person(s) during an extreme circumstance or event, and the circumstance or event presents no danger to the officer involved at the time of the occurrence.

GUARDIAN AWARD:

The Guardian Award may be awarded in recognition of any sworn officer who utilized exceptional tactical skills or verbal approaches and techniques to de-escalate any deadly force situation resulting in the saving or sustaining of a human life.

MEDAL OF VALOR AWARD:

Awarded for acts of extraordinary bravery, most often in deadly or life-threatening situations, involving extreme personal risk to protect others. This honor recognizes selfless and noble actions demonstrating dedication to public service and safety. Eligible to both sworn and non-sworn department members, the Medal of Valor celebrates exceptional courage and devotion to duty.

CHIEF'S AWARD



BRIANNA SIMMONS

Brianna Simmons, Digital Media Coordinator for the Charleston Police Department, has revolutionized CPD's digital media presence, transforming it into a powerful and effective public safety communication platform. In 2024 alone, her strategic efforts increased the department's Facebook reach from 151,000 to over 2.4 million, while adding thousands of new followers across platforms, making CPD's digital audience the largest in its history.

Brianna's work goes far beyond posting content – she has built a digital strategy to ensure critical public safety information is delivered effectively and efficiently. Her work during critical incidents, including officer-involved shootings, has been instrumental in providing accurate updates and countering misinformation.

Always committed, Brianna attends countless events outside work hours to celebrate and highlight CPD's members. Despite limited resources and serving as the sole manager of all the department's social media platforms, she performs her role with immense patience, professionalism, and a collaborative spirit.

Brianna's exceptional contributions have made a lasting impact on the department's mission, making her a deserving recipient for the Chief's Award.

LIFE SAVING AWARD



JACOB CROTSEY

Just before New Year's Day in 2024, Officer Jacob Crotser responded to a shooting downtown where he encountered a gravely injured victim in a hallway surrounded by a significant pool of blood. The victim, who had already suffered severe blood loss, had visible gunshot wounds to her legs and chest.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Officer Crotser immediately applied a tourniquet to the victim's right leg to effectively control the life-threatening bleeding. Remaining by her side, he held her hand and spoke to her calmly, helping to keep her conscious and reassured until EMS arrived. Despite the victim sustaining numerous gunshot wounds to her chest and legs, responding firefighters confirmed that the bleeding was under control upon taking over care – a direct result of Officer Crotser's decisive actions.

Officer Crotser's quick thinking and life-saving measures in an extreme and high-stress situation exemplify his dedication to protecting and serving the community. His actions undoubtedly saved the victim's life, making him a deserving recipient of the Life Saving Award.

LIFE SAVING AWARD



RYAN CHERRIER

On January 24, 2024, Officer Ryan Cherrier responded to a call regarding a missing person after the victim's friend reported him uncharacteristically missing dinner. Officer Cherrier began a thorough investigation, gathering information, contacting the victim by phone, and visiting his residence. Upon finding the house dark and seemingly unoccupied, Officer Cherrier continued searching the property and discovered a vehicle with fogged-up windows.

Opening the car door, he found the victim in critical medical distress, displaying labored breathing, a faint pulse, and vomiting. Neighbors arrived on the scene and informed Officer Cherrier that the victim was diabetic, which enabled EMS to quickly diagnose and administer appropriate treatment. Thanks to Officer Cherrier's persistence and dedication, the victim's life was saved in what could have otherwise been a fatal medical emergency.

Officer Cherrier's determination, resourcefulness, and commitment to protecting and serving the community reflect the very best of law enforcement. His life-saving efforts make him a deserving recipient of the Life Saving Award.

LIFE SAVING AWARD



MATTHEW DAHLEN



CHASKA FORD

On April 15, 2024, Officers Dahlen and Ford responded to a shooting in West Ashley and found a victim with a severe gunshot wound to the upper thigh, bleeding profusely. Acting with urgency and precision, the officers immediately applied a tourniquet and began assessing the victim for additional injuries. When the initial tourniquet proved ineffective, they quickly applied a second one, successfully stopping the bleeding.

Recognizing the signs of significant blood loss, including the victim's thirst and near loss of consciousness, the officers provided critical care until EMS arrived. Their swift actions and decisive response were instrumental in saving the victim's life, despite the severity of the injuries and the challenging circumstances at a very active crime scene.

Officers Dahlen and Ford exemplify the highest standards of dedication and professionalism, performing their duties selflessly and without reservation. They are deserving recipients of the Life Saving Award.

LIFE SAVING AWARD



SAMUEL WENDT

On June 28, 2024, Officer Wendt responded to a call regarding a possible overdose and, upon arrival, he quickly assessed the situation and administered a single dose of Narcan. Initially the dose yielded no results. Recognizing the continued urgency, Officer Wendt immediately began CPR, and during his efforts, the subject briefly regained consciousness as medical personnel arrived to assist.

While it was unclear at the time whether the emergency was medical or narcotics-related, Officer Wendt's swift actions and life-saving measures led to the subject's survival.

Officer Wendt's professionalism, quick thinking, and commitment to preserving life exemplify the highest standards of service. His decisive response directly saved a life, making him a deserving recipient of the Life Saving Award.

LIFE SAVING AWARD



MICHAEL WHITE

On July 7, 2024, Officer White responded to a call regarding a man who had climbed over the protective railing of the pedestrian walkway on the Ravenel Bridge and was threatening to end his life. Upon arrival, Officer White engaged the man in conversation, speaking with him for approximately 45 minutes. Through patience, compassion, and skilled communication, Officer White worked to dissuade the individual from jumping and encouraged him to climb back to safety.

When the man began to divert his attention and appeared to be dozing off, Officer White, alongside Officer Dahlberg, seized the opportunity to act. The officers reached through the railing, secured the individual, and, with the assistance of fire personnel, safely brought him back over the protective barrier.

Officer White's patience, communication skills, and dedication to preserving life were critical in preventing a loss of life. His actions exemplify the highest standards of law enforcement and demonstrate his duty to public safety. Officer White is a deserving recipient of the Life Saving Award for his role in saving this man's life.

LIFE SAVING AWARD

CLINT DAVIS

On August 8, 2024, Senior Police Officer Davis responded to a call regarding a man threatening to jump from the Westmoreland Bridge. Upon arrival, Officer Davis encountered an individual seated on the edge of the overpass, saying he was going to jump and refusing to engage unless the media was present. The individual discarded his wallet behind him, telling Officer Davis to retrieve it if he wanted to know his identity.

Recognizing an opportunity to intervene, SPO C. Davis acted decisively. As he approached to retrieve the wallet, he quickly grabbed the individual and pulled him away from the edge, preventing a potentially fatal outcome.

Officer Davis's quick thinking, calm demeanor, and decisive action exemplify the highest standards of law enforcement. His actions protected the individual in crisis, making him a deserving recipient of the Life Saving Award.

LIFE SAVING AWARD



JAE MULLER



LT TAYLOR

On October 30, 2024, Officers Muller and Taylor responded to a call regarding a possible overdose at an apartment complex known for its challenging layout and navigational difficulties. Recognizing the importance of pre-planning, Officer Muller ensured they brought Narcan to the scene. Upon arrival, they found an unresponsive male inside the apartment. Acting quickly, Officer Taylor administered Narcan, helping the victim gradually regain consciousness.

Officers today face increasing dangers associated with substance use disorders and overdoses. In this incident, the officers' specific knowledge of the area they patrol, combined with their proactive preparation, directly saved the victim's life. Their actions exemplify their willingness, foresight, and dedication to protecting the community.

For their quick-thinking and life-saving efforts, Officers Muller and Taylor are deserving recipients of the Life Saving Award.

LIFE SAVING AWARD



QUINTIN COLLINS

On November 3, 2024, while off duty and outside his jurisdiction in North Charleston, Sergeant Collins demonstrated exceptional bravery and awareness by intervening in a life-threatening situation. Observing a man near an overpass displaying signs of distress, Sergeant Collins recognized the potential for a suicide attempt and acted without hesitation.

Sergeant Collins approached the individual with empathy and calmness, engaging him in conversation while simultaneously seeking assistance. Despite the personal risk posed by the location, he maintained a secure hold on the man and carefully managed the delicate situation. Displaying remarkable situational awareness, Sergeant Collins enlisted the help of nearby citizens to provide support until local officers arrived. His compassion and reassurance, including offering a comforting hug during the man's moment of vulnerability, were instrumental in de-escalating the situation. The individual was then safely removed from the railing.

This incident highlights Sergeant Collins's dedication to protecting life, even while off duty and beyond his jurisdiction. His actions are part of a pattern of lifesaving interventions, including a prior commendation for preventing a suicide attempt on a downtown parking garage just six months earlier.

Sergeant Collins's quick thinking, compassion, and selflessness reflect the highest values of the Charleston Police Department. His courageous actions in this incident make him a deserving recipient of the Life Saving Award.

LIFE SAVING AWARD



JONATHAN CARABALLO



CODY DANIELS



TAYLOR WARD

On November 13, 2024, Officers Caraballo, Daniels, and Ward responded to a shooting at a West Ashley gas station involving two juveniles. One victim sustained gunshot wounds to his extremities, while the other suffered a life-threatening injury to his pelvic region, resulting in severe blood loss.

Upon arrival, the officers quickly assessed the critical situation and took decisive action. Officer Caraballo applied a tourniquet to the first victim's arm, while Officer Daniels applied a tourniquet to his leg. Recognizing the severity of the second victim's injury, Officer Ward applied direct pressure to stem the bleeding, stabilizing the victim until paramedics arrived. Officer Caraballo then maintained pressure on the wound as paramedics dressed it to ensure the victim's condition remained stable until transport.

The courage, skill, and composure displayed by these officers under intense pressure directly contributed to saving the lives of both victims. Their exemplary actions reflect the highest standards of law enforcement service and dedication to the preservation of life. Officers Caraballo, Daniels, and Ward are deserving recipients of the Charleston Police Department's Life Saving Award.

LIFE SAVING AWARD



JOHN MONTANIZ

On the morning of November 19, 2024, Officer John Montaniz demonstrated extraordinary courage and quick thinking while on patrol near the Bridgeview Apartments. A citizen flagged him down urgently, reporting a two-year-old child who was not breathing. Upon arriving at the scene, Officer Montaniz found the unresponsive toddler and immediately began life-saving measures, performing chest compressions and assisting with oxygen flow for seven critical minutes until the child began making faint attempts to breathe.

When medical help arrived, Officer Montaniz carried the child to meet first responders to make sure no time was lost in transitioning to advanced care. The child was transported to the hospital, where he was later reported to be in stable condition. The child's mother expressed profound gratitude, calling Officer Montaniz her son's "superhero" for saving his life.

Officer Montaniz's calm and decisive actions during a life-threatening emergency exemplify the highest standards of duty and compassion. His preparedness and dedication reflect the core values of the Charleston Police Department, making Officer Montaniz a deserving recipient of the Life Saving Award.

LIFE SAVING AWARD



JEREMY FIEDLER

On December 27, 2024, Officer Fiedler responded to a call where a juvenile victim was struck by gunfire. Arriving first on the scene, Officer Fiedler demonstrated exceptional composure, quickly locating the victim and identifying penetrating chest trauma. Using his advanced training, he administered lifesaving interventions, including the application of chest seals which significantly increased the victim's chances of survival.

This incident highlights Officer Fiedler's dedication to his role and his adherence to continuous training and self-improvement. His ability to act decisively and deliver critical care in such a high-pressure situation showcases his exceptional readiness for duty.

Officer Fiedler's quick thinking, advanced skills, and decisive actions make him a deserving recipient of the Life Saving Award.

LIFE SAVING AWARD



MATTHEW GREENLEAF

In the face of an extraordinary and life-threatening situation, Sergeant Greenleaf demonstrated remarkable bravery and quick thinking while responding to a call on the Ravenel Bridge. Upon arrival, he encountered an individual straddling the railing with a rope tied around their neck and the rail, prepared to jump. Acting decisively, Sergeant Greenleaf successfully pulled the individual back over the bridge to safety, preventing a devastating loss of life.

Sergeant Greenleaf's actions exemplify the dedication and professionalism that are hallmarks of exceptional law enforcement. His courage and commitment to preserving life in such a high-stress and unpredictable moment make him a deserving recipient of the Life Saving Award.

GUARDIAN AWARD



WILLIAM CAMPBELL



RAYMOND FRYAR



JEREMY HOLLINGSWORTH



CREIGHTON MCDERMOTT

On August 19, 2024, officers responded to a residential burglary in progress where they found a shattered window, blood on the blinds, and screaming from inside the home. Senior Police Officer Fryar and Officer Hollingsworth quickly assessed the situation and prepared to breach the door when it suddenly opened. Inside, they observed the offender actively attempting to assault the victim. Officer Fryar immediately used a breaching tool to subdue the offender, allowing officers to intervene.

Despite the offender's combative resistance, Officer Campbell arrived to assist, and the team worked together to detain him using handcuffs and shackles. Officer McDermott provided critical support to the victim, escorting her to safety, offering reassurance, and staying by her side during medical transport.

The investigation resulted in the offender's arrest on multiple charges, including burglary, attempted murder, and assault on police while resisting arrest. The swift, coordinated, and courageous actions of these officers not only saved the victim's life but also prevented further harm and escalation.

Their exceptional bravery, composure under pressure, and dedication to protecting the community are representative of the highest standards of law enforcement. Officers Fryar, Hollingsworth, Campbell, and McDermott are deserving recipients of the Guardian Award.

MEDAL OF VALOR



JASON FREDERICK



DARREN SCHLEGEL



ANTHONY VAZQUEZ

On November 21, 2024, Quick Response Squad members Master Police Officer Frederick, Officer Vazquez, and Officer Schlegel demonstrated exceptional bravery and selflessness during an active fight involving a handgun. Upon arriving at the chaotic scene, the officers were confronted with an aggressive suspect and numerous unknowns, placing themselves in significant danger to protect those around them.

Officers Schlegel and Vazquez courageously attempted to de-escalate the situation, providing the suspect every opportunity to surrender peacefully. Despite their efforts, the suspect raised his handgun, creating an immediate and deadly threat to both the officers and nearby citizens. With great individual courage and no regard for their own safety, the officers responded with proportional force to neutralize the threat to protect innocent lives.

Simultaneously, Master Police Officer Frederick apprehended another involved male to secure the scene and ensure his partners' safety. Acting with dedication and compassion, all three officers quickly transitioned to life-saving efforts, providing critical medical aid to the suspect who had moments earlier posed a deadly threat.

The bravery, selflessness, and devotion to duty displayed by Officers Frederick, Vazquez, and Schlegel exemplify the highest ideals of law enforcement. Their actions in the face of extreme risk reflect extraordinary valor, making them deserving recipients of the Medal of Valor.

MEDAL OF VALOR



TAYLOR SCHWARTZ

On January 21, 2024, Officer Schwartz demonstrated extraordinary bravery and resilience during a life-threatening encounter. Responding to a call regarding a suspect possibly linked to multiple armed robberies, Officer Schwartz pursued the fleeing suspect to a parking lot nearby. There, the suspect drew a revolver, directly threatening Officer Schwartz's life. Under immediate and extreme risk, Officer Schwartz returned fire while the suspect fired at him, then continued to pursue the armed individual despite sustaining an injury to his hand.

Displaying exceptional composure, Officer Schwartz quickly organized responding officers, established a secure perimeter, and participated in the successful apprehension of the suspect, who was located in a nearby ditch. His actions, taken with no regard for his personal safety, assured the protection of the public and his fellow officers.

In a moment every officer trains for but hopes never to face, Officer Schwartz's courage, gallantry, and attention to duty embodied the highest principles of law enforcement. His actions are a reminder of the risks officers face daily. For his bravery, Officer Schwartz is a deserving recipient of the Medal of Valor.

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BEEMOK HOSPITALITY COLLECTION (BHC) AIMS TO INSPIRE AND CONNECT PEOPLE THROUGH EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES AT OUR PORTFOLIO OF INTERWOVEN WORLD-CLASS HOTELS, FINE RESTAURANTS, UNIQUE ENTERTAINMENT VENUES AND MARQUEE EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE CHARLESTON, SC METROPOLITAN AREA.

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