

AWARDS HONORING EXCELLENCE

Chatham County Police Department



Chatham County Police Department officers and employees are always held to the highest standard of our profession. But, there are extraordinary circumstances where the actions of our officers and civilian personnel deserve special recognition by our department and community.

The recipients of these awards were nominated by their department supervisors and peers, and selected by a Chatham County Police Department awards committee. These awards honor Chatham County Police Department officers and civilian employees who displayed outstanding heroism, compassion, and professionalism from February 1, 2018 through July 31, 2020.

We congratulate each of our award winners. We are proud of your service to the Chatham County Police Department and to the members of our community.

Life-Saving Medal

Officer Nickki Garman



On March 28, 2020, Officer Nickki Garman was on patrol when a Chatham County Police Department sergeant radioed for her to report to his location. The sergeant was on the scene with a male gunshot victim, and awaiting EMS. The victim was suffering a catastrophic injury known as a "sucking chest wound" and in danger of dying before EMS arrived. The sergeant knew Officer Garman was a U.S. Army combat veteran and trained first responder, and would have medical expertise that he did not possess that might keep the victim alive.

Officer Garman arrived before EMS, and immediately assessed the victim and began placing sucking chest wound seals that allowed the victim to breathe again. Officer Garman's medical aid gave the victim the chance to make it to the hospital and into life-saving surgery.

For her heroic and life-saving actions, Officer Nickki Garman was presented with the Chatham County Police Department Life-Saving Medal.

Life-Saving Medal

Officer William Eng



On July 30, 2019, Officer William Eng was dispatched to the Riverview Mobile Estates where he found a citizen doing CPR on a man who was not breathing and was unresponsive. Officer Eng took over CPR, while waiting for EMS to arrive.

At one point, Officer Eng advised the citizen on-scene to turn the victim's head to keep him from aspirating. The victim took a breath, and Officer Eng stopped chest compressions. When the victim stopped breathing again, Officer Eng resumed chest compressions and continued them until EMS arrived. The victim was resuscitated, and transported to the hospital.

For these heroic efforts, Officer William Eng was presented with the Chatham County Police Department Life-Saving Medal.

Life-Saving Medal

Corporal David Jannot

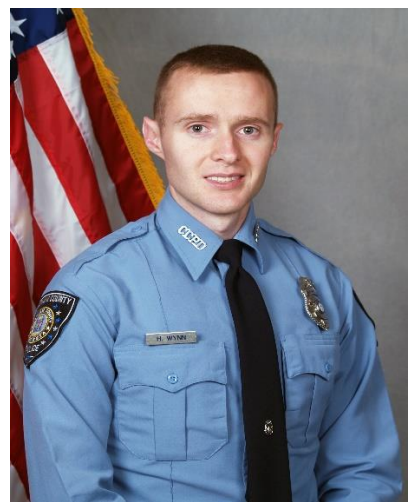


On July 21, 2018, Marine Patrol Corporal David Jannot was patrolling the waters of Chatham County when he was dispatched to a call of an overturned vessel. Corporal Jannot located the vessel in Wassaw Sound, past the Demarcation Line in an area considered offshore. The vessel had overturned due to engine trouble, and was being swamped by waves while three people were clinging onto the boat.

Corporal Jannot was able to maneuver his watercraft and bring all three passengers safely aboard in rough conditions, with no injuries to the passengers and minimal damage to their boat. For these heroic efforts, Corporal David Jannot was presented with the Chatham County Police Department's Life-Saving Medal.

Life-Saving Medal

Corporal Aaron Fox, Officer Sean Bailey, Officer Heath Wynn

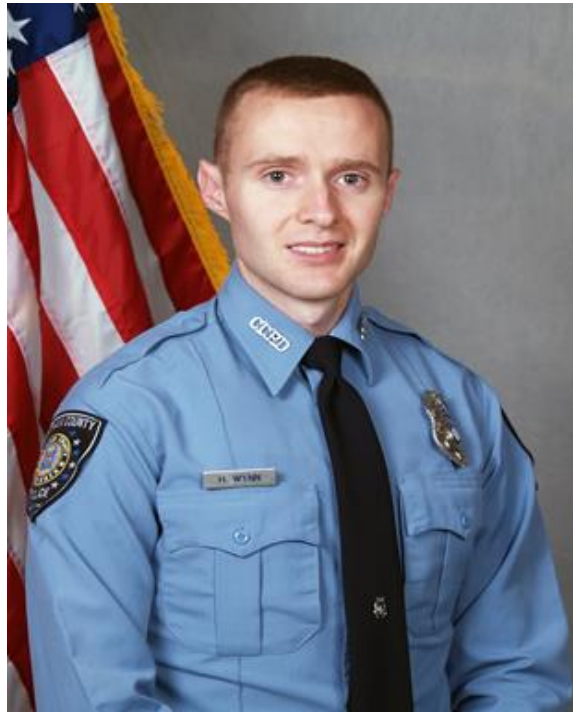


On February 23, 2020, Corporal Aaron Fox, Officer Sean Bailey, and Officer Heath Wynn were dispatched to a structure fire at an apartment complex on Oyster Shell Road. They arrived to find parts of the building engulfed, with flames shooting from the structure. Other residents informed the officers that some people were still inside the apartments.

Corporal Fox took command of the scene and instructed Officers Bailey and Wynn to get residents out of the building. They went from door to door, and at one point encountered a belligerent man who refused to leave. They finally talked the man into evacuating, and escaping injury. Meanwhile, Corporal Fox located several people inside a second floor apartment. The stairwell was cut off by flames, and the residents were on the back patio. Corporal Fox radioed his location with the victims and helped coordinate their rescue. Despite the danger, no one was injured during this incident. For their brave actions Corporal Fox, Officer Bailey and Officer Wynn received the Chatham County Police Department Life-Saving Medal.

Medal of Merit

Officer Heath Wynn



On February 9, 2020, Officer Heath Wynn was dispatched to Lake Mayer for a report of a submerged vehicle. Witnesses at the scene described seeing the vehicle go into the water with passengers inside. With no regard to his own health or safety, Officer Wynn immediately went into the water in an attempt to rescue the mother and teenaged daughter trapped inside the vehicle.

While waiting for other emergency crews to arrive and assist, Officer Wynn dove into the water multiple times to try and break the car windows and free the occupants. This water was polluted, and when he emerged from the water, Officer Wynn had to undergo decontamination efforts. Sadly, the mother and daughter were unable to be reached before they passed away.

For his extraordinarily selfless efforts, Officer Heath Wynn was presented with the Chatham County Police Department's Medal of Merit.

Medal of Merit

Sergeant Pam Snyder, Officer James Humphries, Officer Bhadya Nethicumara



On the night of June 18, 2020, Sergeant Pam Snyder, Officer James Humphries, and Officer Bhadya Nethicumara were dispatched to a call about a suicidal person – possibly armed with a weapon -- who had entered the water on Shipyard Creek. The man in distress was active duty military, and suffered from PTSD which caused severe mood swings. He was intoxicated and threatening suicide. Ignoring the officers' calls to get out of the water, the suspect floated with the tide several hundred yards away.

Nearby residents came to assist with boats, and Officer Humphries boarded one of the boats that floated alongside the distressed man. Officer Humphries continued to try to get the man to come inside the boat. At one point, the night was so dark and the current so fast, that both Officer Humphries and the residents became disoriented and were unsure of their exact location. Meanwhile, the suspect continued to intentionally submerge himself under the water. He became fatigued, and finally agreed to get into the boat with Officer Humphries.

When the boat docked, it took the man's commanding officer and loved ones thirty minutes to convince him to walk up from the floating dock to the pier. During this time the man repeated his intention to commit suicide and continued to verbally lash out. He was finally convinced to walk from the floating dock to the elevated pier so he could be checked by waiting EMT's. When the man reached the pier, he made a run for the side in an attempt to jump off. Officers Humphries and Nethicumara and Sergeant Snyder were able to grab onto him and hold him, despite him continuing to struggle. It took three injections of a sedative to calm the man down so he could be transported to a hospital for an evaluation.

In recognition of their extraordinary acts of kindness, bravery, and service having a direct impact on improving a person's well-being or alleviating human suffering, the Chatham County Police Department Medal of Merit was presented to Sergeant Pam Snyder, Officer James Humphries, and Officer Bhadya Nethicumara.

Chief's Award of Excellence

Sergeant Tony Slayden



On July 26, 2018, then-Corporal Tony Slayden was assigned to a home invasion case. During his investigation, Sergeant Slayden uncovered evidence linking a suspect to the Ghost Face Gangsters.

Sergeant Slayden's evidence enabled the ATF to conduct warrant searches which resulted in 43 indictments against the Ghost Face Gangsters, including some top-ranking gang members.

Sergeant Slayden's investigative work was instrumental in helping to bring members of this dangerous criminal organization to justice, and for these efforts he was honored with the Chatham County Police Department Chief's Award of Excellence.

Chief's Award of Excellence

Margaret Boyer



Margaret Boyer serves as the administrative assistant to the Chatham County Police Department's Office of Professional Standards.

Ms. Boyer is recognized by her supervisors and her peers for her unwavering professionalism as she supports the important work of the department's internal affairs, training, recruiting and licensing and permitting functions. She is known as a team member who is quick to assist whenever asked, and who brings valuable knowledge and expertise to her role.

For her exemplary professionalism and team work, Margaret Boyer was honored with the Chatham County Police Department Chief's Award of Excellence.

Commendation Letter

Corporal Trey Blackburn and Corporal Winston Maxey



On July 21, 2018, Chatham County Police Department Marine Patrol's Corporal Trey Blackburn and Corporal Winston Maxey were patrolling the waters of Chatham County when they were dispatched to aid in the search for a missing jet skier.

The watercraft had been located near a buoy, but the operator was missing. Corporal Blackburn and Corporal Maxey were part of the Marine Patrol team that coordinated with other local and federal agencies, located the man who had been in the water for more than an hour, and safely returned him to land. For these extraordinary efforts, Corporal Trey Blackburn and Corporal Winston Maxey were presented with a Chatham County Police Department Commendation Letter.

Commendation Letter

Officer Joshua Chatting



On July 8, 2020, Officer Joshua Chatting became aware of a long-standing dispute between two Chatham County residents over a piece of property.

Officer Chatting worked with the two residents for a month to find a long-term solution that satisfied both parties. He went above the expectation of an officer in this type of situation, and demonstrated exceptional public service and community policing efforts in his efforts to resolve the problem.

For his exemplary handling of this disagreement and his role in its resolution, Officer Joshua Chatting was presented with a Chatham County Police Department Commendation Letter.

Commendation Letter

Officer Sean Bailey



Officer Sean Bailey always arrives early for roll call and is quick to take calls for service at the end of his shift, while never complaining about being asked to work beyond his assigned hours. He makes sure he is aware of all incidents that occur on his beat during his days off, so he knows of problems and issues that may need to be addressed during his shift.

Officer Bailey frequently takes the initiative to work cases that may not have a quick resolution. An example of this is when he spent several days obtaining information about a hit-and-run driver that allowed him to close the case for the victim. Officer Bailey demonstrates an eagerness to learn, and is often assigned to research changes in laws or local ordinances. For his exemplary service, Officer Sean Bailey was presented with a Chatham County Police Department Commendation Letter.

