

CHIEF DOUGLAS EDWARDS



Chief Doug Edwards joined the Hyattstown Volunteer Fire Department in October 1957 and attained numerous training certifications in the subsequent years including Emergency Medical Technician, Firefighter 1, 2 & 3 Hazmat and Water Rescue Operations, numerous technical rescue courses as well as numerous firefighting strategies and tactics courses. These certifications allowed Chief Edwards to hold all operational positions including 24 years as Fire Chief and 6 years as President of Hyattstown Volunteer Fire Dept.

While holding these important positions Chief Edwards has been responsible for:

- Numerous apparatus acquisitions including rescue squads, engines, brush trucks, tankers and rescue engines. Hyattstown is the first fire department in Montgomery County to provide the community with the latest firefighting technology - Compressed Air Foam System.
- Firehouse renovation and expansion projects including a top to bottom renovation of the 1942 firehouse in 1993, in 1996 a new building to house larger apparatus and in 2008 a building addition. His responsibilities included but were not limited to planning, design, funding, permitting and construction oversight.
- Countywide fire and rescue committee participation for apparatus, Senator Amoss Fund distribution and oversight and rural water supply - setting today's standards for the County.
- Responding to and managing thousands of emergency calls for help at all hours of the day or night (numerous letters of appreciation are in his personnel file).

Chief Edwards continues to run all fire and rescue calls and drive the tanker as needed - from 1957 to the present.

All of this has been done with hundreds of hours of Chief Edwards's personal time per year for the last 52 years —at no cost to the citizens of Montgomery County. As a famous major airline describes its employees involved in the community on their own time, "Serving the Hyattstown community is what I do; the Hyattstown community is who I am".

For these reasons we are proud to present Chief Douglas Warren Edwards the Leslie B. Thompson Community Service Award.

POLICE OFFICER III JOSEPH WALKER

POLICE OFFICER III JOSEPH DUGAN

POLICE OFFICER III TODD STEVENS



On June 6th, Police Officers III Joseph Walker, Joseph Dugan and Todd Stevens and Sergeant John Converse were dispatched to an emergency call at an apartment located at 101 Watkins Pond Boulevard in Rockville. A subject was armed with a knife, locked inside a bathroom, and threatened to kill himself. The dispatcher had informed the officers that the call was made by the subject's mother who had seen her son go into the bathroom with a large butcher knife.

The Officers and Sergeant Converse arrived and entered the apartment. The mother described the situation and Sergeant Converse attempted to talk to the victim and repeatedly asked him to open the bathroom door so that the officers could see him. The victim refused. At this point, Officer Walker began kicking the door several times until it opened. Officer Stevens saw the victim covered in blood that had splattered across the walls, ceiling and floor. The victim held a 7 to 8 inch butcher knife pointed at his stomach. Officer Dugan ordered the victim to drop the knife. He refused. Officer Dugan unsuccessfully deployed his taser. The victim then pointed the knife at Officer Dugan. Officer Stevens then deployed his taser that did take effect. The victim dropped the knife and Officer Stevens was able to secure the victim and kick the knife away. Montgomery County Fire and Rescue arrived and transported the victim to a local hospital for treatment.

The tactics and deployment of tasers resulted in the successful outcome. Officers Dugan and Stevens recognized it was unsafe to approach the suicidal victim who posed an immediate risk to themselves and others. The officer utilized a less lethal alternative to deadly force.

For his unusual demonstration of zeal to kick down a door to prevent a life-threatening danger, we are pleased to award Police Officer III Joseph Walker the Honorable Mention of Valor.

For taking the unusual risk to negotiate with a blood-covered victim to drop his knife, we are pleased to award Police Officer III Joseph Dugan the Honorable Mention of Valor.

For the unusual demonstration of excellent judgment to deploy his taser avoiding deadly force, we are pleased to award Police Officer III Todd Stevens the Honorable Mention of Valor.

POLICE OFFICER II BRIAN F. MONTES



On May 18th at approximately 8:30 PM, Police Officer II Brian Montes was on routine patrol in the vicinity of the Rockville Metro Station. A citizen waved down Officer Montes and told him that there was a fight in progress near the bus waiting area and one man had a knife. Officer Montes observed a man swinging a knife with a four-inch blade above the chest of a second individual. The Officer repeatedly ordered the man to drop the knife, but the assailant did not comply. The Officer was about to reach for his firearm but decided against it. The bus station was full of innocent bystanders who could have been placed in danger by a stray bullet. Officer Montes decided to use his taser. As the suspect lunged towards the victim's throat, Officer Montes successfully deployed his taser and disabled the assailant.

It was determined that the man with the knife had approached a female and made sexual advances towards her. A "good Samaritan" who attempted to assist her was the one under violent threat of attack. If it was not for Officer Montes' quick thinking and action, a life might have been taken. Given the circumstances, he was fully justified to use deadly force, but chose to use a less-lethal method to protect the innocent man and bystanders.

For unusual demonstration of judgment in a public and high-risk situation, we are pleased to award Police Officer II Brian Montes the Honorable Mention of Valor.

POLICE OFFICER III JONATHAN RAIMONDI



On January 19th at 6:30 in the morning, Third District Montgomery County Police Officers responded to 9203 Piney Branch Road in Silver Spring for a robbery in progress in a parking lot of the Nob Hill apartments. Officers arrived on the scene but could not locate a victim or any witness to the event. Police Officer III Jonathan Raimondi called the complainant from this cell phone and had an open line. The Officer was able to clearly hear a disturbance in the background for several minutes until the complainant disconnected the call. Officers circulated the apartment complex for approximately 15 minutes and cleared the call since nothing was found.

Officer Raimondi continued to circulate the area to include the Forest Park apartment complex at the 9300 block of Piney Branch Road. The Officer conducted a foot patrol of each apartment building. During the foot patrol, he heard a disturbance coming from one apartment and recognized the voices as similar to the ones heard on this cell phone. Further investigation revealed that a victim of a home invasion robbery was in a stairwell and that two suspects were armed and still inside the apartment. Officer Raimondi called for back-up units. He then observed two additional victims being pushed from the apartment by two armed suspects. Officer Raimondi immediately approached the door and the suspects retreated into the apartment. The suspects surrendered and dropped two guns that replicated semi-automatic handguns. The guns were later determined to be pellet guns. Officer Raimondi took the suspects into custody at gunpoint and managed a chaotic scene of ten frantic victims until back-up officers arrived.

The investigation revealed that the suspects had followed one of the victims home from a bar in Langley Park. At gunpoint, the suspects took the resident into his apartment from the parking lot. Once inside the apartment,

the suspects demanded \$10,000 from the ten victims while they were held at gunpoint and physically assaulted. As a result of Officer Raimondi's actions, two suspects were apprehended from the home invasion robbery. The suspects were later identified as responsible for a similar home invasion robbery a week before in a nearby apartment building.

For demonstrating bravery and determination in single-handedly responding to an emergency situation, we are pleased to award Police Officer III Jonathan Raimondi the bronze medal of valor.

POLICE OFFICER III IAN CLARK

POLICE OFFICER III ROBERT MAZZUCA



On July 26 in the early afternoon, two subjects were engaged in a verbal dispute in front of a Chuck E. Cheese located at 13811 Outlet Drive in Silver Spring. The verbal dispute escalated into a physical altercation and then into a gun battle. The two subjects began

shooting at each other in a crowded shopping center. One subject was struck three times and an innocent bystander was struck once. The subject was taken to the hospital by a relative and was subsequently charged for his involvement in the fight.

The identity of the second assailant was unknown. Through the use of informants and in conjunction with the Silver Spring Investigative Section and Repeater Offender Section detectives, the second shooter was identified. Detectives Durham and St. Louis compiled critical information on possible

locations where the subject may be in hiding. Detective Durham spent numerous hours getting an arrest warrant prepared. In cooperation with the Silver Spring Investigative Section and the Repeat Offenders Section, several addresses were developed and watched for several days.

On July 31, the 3rd District Special Assignment Team followed a lead where surveillance was set up on Cherry Hill Road in Beltsville, Maryland. They detected the subject exiting an apartment and knowing the subject's violent nature, decided to make an attempt to take him into custody. The subject was surrounded on foot by several members of 3D SAT just outside the building. The subject retreated back into the building and attempted to break into an apartment. It was later determined that the apartment was occupied by a mother and her three children who had no relation to the subject. If he had gained entry, a hostage situation could have occurred.

Officers Robert Mazzuca, Ian Clark and Casey Diaz were closest to the subject and without hesitation ran into the building, led by Robert Mazzuca. Police Officer III Mazzuca ordered the subject at gunpoint to get on the ground. The subject refused and continued his attempt to break into the apartment. Police Officer III Ian Clark deployed his taser and the subject fell to the ground. The subject reached toward his waistband. Believing that the subject was reaching for his gun, Officer Clark immediately engaged physically with the subject, placing himself within point blank range. Officer Clark reached into the subject's waistband and was able to wrestle away a fully loaded 38 caliber semi-automatic handgun that was ready to fire.

The subject remained, determined not to be taken into custody, and continued to actively fight despite eight officers trying to restrain him, including Sergeant Dan Helton, Corporal Eric Harrell, Police Officer III Robert Mazzuca, Police Officer III Jason Straughan, Police Officer III Ian Clark, Police Officer III Charles Haak, Police Officer III Casey Diaz and Police Officer III Edward Drew. During the struggle in the tight hallway of the apartment

building, the subject continued to reach for his waistband leading the officers to believe he had a second gun. It was later determined that he did not.

Taken into custody and interviewed, the subject revealed that he was a black belt in martial arts. A known user of PCP, he displayed signs that he was under the influence of the drug, which explained his apparent strength, sustained physical resistance, unresponsiveness to the taser and pain resistance. He had multiple prior charges including attempted 1st and 2nd Degree Murder, 1st and 4th Degree Burglary, Armed Robbery and numerous drug charges. Due to the heroic efforts of the responders, the subject was charged in this case with Attempted 1st Degree and 2nd Degree Murder, Attempted Manslaughter, Reckless Endangerment, 1st Degree Assault, Use of a Handgun in the Commission of a Felony/Crime of Violence, Carrying a Concealed Handgun on Person and Carrying a Dangerous Weapon with the Intent to Injure/Cause Serious Bodily Harm.

For leading the charge into the building that lead to the capture of a dangerous subject and preventing him from entering an apartment containing an innocent family, we are pleased to award Police Officer III Robert Mazzuca the Honorable Mention of Valor.

For taking great personal risk and bravely wrestling with a dangerous and physically determined subject and preventing him from using his gun with potentially lethal consequences, we are pleased to award Police Officer III Ian Clark the Silver Medal of Valor.

POLICE OFFICER III ROBERT ULISNEY

SERGEANT ROBIN LEWIS

POLICE OFFICER II STANLEY BARSCH



On February 27th at 12:30 in the afternoon, 3rd District patrol units were dispatched for a "Suicide in Progress" call at a Silver Spring apartment building. The dispatcher reported that there was a teenaged girl on the edge of the roof of a 20-story building threatening suicide.

Officers Stanley Barsch, Naeem Hargrove, Patrick Hennesy, Curtis Lefisca and Susanna Stanley of the Ida Sector beat team were the first officers to arrive. They observed a teenaged girl sitting on edge of the towering building with her legs dangling over the ledge. The officers met with the building's engineer, management and the girl's father and learned that she had reached the rooftop via a fixed vertical ladder on the top landing of the fire stairwell. It led to a 4 x 4 foot hatch that was left open by a contractor doing maintenance work on the roof. This was the sole means of access to the roof.

Officer Hargrove first climbed the ladder and emerged partially out of hatch to observe the girl perched approximately twelve feet away from him. Officer Hargrove's attempt to engage her failed so he proceeded down the ladder and reported the proximity of the girl to the edge and to the hatch. Officer Barsch then attempted to speak with the girl but she was clearly

resolute. Officers requested crisis negotiators to be dispatched and an Emergency Response Team call-out was made.

Other officers gathered more information from the distraught father. They learned she was a depressed 17-year-old, undergoing chemotherapy for an autoimmune disorder and was challenged by family, academic and social pressures.

A positive sign occurred for the officers when she asked for water and, later, blankets because it was cold on the roof. Officer Barsch delivered bottled water and blankets and sustained distant contact with the girl until the Crisis Negotiator Team and Emergency Response Team could arrive.

The first trained negotiator to arrive on the scene was Lieutenant Paul Liquorie. Officer David Magnelli was the second trained negotiator served as an additional coach, formulating ideas and negotiation tactics.

Lt. Liquorie developed an overall strategy and began to coach Officer Barsch on what to say.-Officer Barsch continued to speak and develop themes to stabilize the situation. A female negotiator, Detective Deanna Mackie, replaced Officer Barsch. The Detective had a colleague who succumbed to cancer and she shared this emotional experience with girl. Despite this effort, the girl remained in place.

Offering relief to Detective Mackie in the 5th hour, Lt. Liquorie requested that the Sheriff's Department Sergeant Robin Lewis respond to the 20th floor to try to negotiate with the girl. Detective Mackie offered that Robin Lewis was a cancer survivor who may be best suited to negotiate.

Sergeant Lewis had interviewed the parents, teachers and others associated with the girl. Though Sergeant Lewis spoke candidly about her battle with cancer and its emotional strain, it was still not enough to prompt the girl to

move to safety. Due to the darkness of night, portable lights were delivered to the rooftop as the negotiation continued into the eighth hour.

Rescue options were discussed by Sergeant Jeff Nyce of the Tactical Section and Lieutenant Liquorie. They decided to deploy a tactical officer as a negotiator who could physically subdue her. As the negotiation reached the 10th hour, it was determined that Officer Robert Ulisney would be selected as the tactical officer to implement the plan. A champion wrestler, a defensive tactics instructor, former Navy Seal with teen-aged daughters, he was the ideal choice.

The plan had risks: The lip of the roof's precipice was no higher than 18 inches. If Officer Ulisney moved toward her, he could not use it for leverage or pin her against it. Both of them could fall off the roof. Further complicating the plan was that the roof was comprised of loose gravel that was wet since it had been raining off and on for hours and high winds were prevalent. In addition, blankets concealed the girl's frame so his grip would be uncertain. Nevertheless, the plan was in place.

Sergeant Lewis remained the primary negotiator. She introduced Officer Ulisney who was situated on the roof and was able to keep a rudimentary safety line strapped to him and concealed from the girl.

The girl appeared to be getting tired and would from time to time briefly lie down. When Officer Ulisney tested her response, she would spring closer to the edge. The Officer sat on the roof near the hatch waiting for the right opportunity for the rescue. Sergeant Lewis and Officer Ulisney continued to speak and give emotional support to the girl.

Officer Ulisney continued to watch her every move. When she lay down again in the 11th hour, Officer Ulisney suddenly lunged from a seated position on the roof, closed the twelve-foot gap between the girl and him and blanketed

her with his body. He acted so quickly that he did not have time to signal Officer Stephens and the other tactical officer who were tied off and waiting on the ladder. The immediate action team quickly realized what had happened and squeezed through the narrow hatch past Sergeant Lewis in order to help Officer Ulisney who struggled with the girl. Officers Stephens and Clark and Sergeant Dillman gained control of the girl and moved her away from the building's edge. Sergeant Dillman carried her to the hatch to other members of the tactical team and medics.

The girl was medically evaluated first by the police tactical medics and then by Fire and Rescue personnel who transported her for an Emergency Evaluation Petition. Dozens of other officers were involved in this event.

The extraordinary display of teamwork, patience, and respective expertise, physical and emotional courage was evident throughout the 11-hour ordeal. The tactical team developed a feasible and sound plan that was flawlessly implemented under extremely trying and difficult circumstances.

For his expert ability to bring stability in the early hours of dangerous life-threatening situation, we are pleased to award Police Officer III Stanley Barsch the Honorable Mention of Valor.

For her extremely brave, effective and personal determination to save a young girl from suicide, we are pleased to award Sergeant Robin Lewis the Bronze Medal of Valor.

For the perfect display of mental and physical agility, to risk and overcome personal danger in a life-threatening situation, we are pleased to award Police Officer III Robert Ulisney the Silver Medal of Valor.

POLICE OFFICER III KEVIN B. REESE



During the evening of February 26th, Police Officer III Kevin B. Reese and members of the Police Community Action Team were proactively patrolling the tough neighborhood area of Briggs Chaney Road and Castle Boulevard in Silver Spring, Maryland. The unit had been requested to respond to the area due to an increase in local street robberies.

At approximately 8:15, Officer Reese conducted a routine traffic stop of a 1994 Pontiac Bonneville for traffic violations at the 13900 block of Castle Boulevard. Upon approaching the vehicle, Officer Reese looked inside and saw three individuals and detected a strong odor of marijuana. Two additional officers quickly joined Officer Reese. Following established procedures, the driver and a rear seat passenger complied with the police request and stepped from the vehicle and sat on the curb. Officer Reese was standing outside the passenger side door and observed the actions of the front seat passenger. He requested that the passenger exit the vehicle. Suddenly, the passenger lunged towards the driver's seat in an attempt to drive away. Officer Reese reacted quickly and ran around the front of the vehicle to thwart this attempt to escape. The subject put the vehicle into drive and accelerated rapidly, striking Officer Reese and throwing him onto the hood of the vehicle. This routine traffic stop quickly escalated into a life-threatening situation.

With Officer Reese clinging on the hood, the subject sped several hundred yards up Castle Boulevard. Even though he feared for his life, the officer remained on the hood of the car, had the presence of mind to draw his handgun, and was able to discharge his weapon several times in an attempt to get the driver to stop the car. Due to Officer Reese's actions, the driver suddenly swerved to the left, struck a curb, then a fence, throwing Officer

Reese into to air. He landed hard on the paved roadway where he sustained serious injuries to both legs. The driver fled the scene. After an intense and exhaustive search, he later turned himself in at a local hospital where he was treated for gunshot wounds. The subject was subsequently charged with numerous offenses, including attempted first-degree murder and the first-degree assault on a police officer.

Through his quick action and clarity of thought in a life-threatening situation involving great personal risk, we are pleased to award Police Officer III Kevin B. Reese the Silver medal of valor.

MASTER FIREFIGHTER DAVID YANKEY



While off-duty and at home last August, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Master Firefighter David Yankey was alerted to a dispatcher announcement of a house fire in Myersville, Maryland. The alert included the news that an elderly woman was inside. Not knowing how long it would take the local fire and rescue service to arrive, Firefighter Yankey made the choice to respond and fled to the scene.

Firefighter Yankey drove his car to the location and saw a two-story balloon framed home that was fully charged with thick black smoke. Understanding the different ways fire travels through a variety of house structures, he knew that fire rapidly travels through every open channel in every direction of a balloon-framed house. He knew this was an immensely dangerous situation.

An elderly, infirmed female who was oxygen dependent was alone in the house. This heightened the dangerous situation since oxygen tanks are highly flammable.

Firefighter Yankey knew that immediate action was needed. He did not hesitate. He acted alone.

He quickly gathered his personal protective equipment from this car. Without the life-saving benefit of a self-contained breathing apparatus or a charged hose line, he entered the burning structure and searched for the woman. Once inside, Firefighter Yankey fully understood the severity of the situation. Knowing that the house could flashover at any time, and that the house was fully engulfed in flames, he quickly found and removed the women from the second floor to the exterior of the structure. He continued to render aide until the fire rescue units arrived on the scene ten minutes later. Despite his quick intervention, the woman succumbed to injuries resulting from the fire.

Firefighter Yankey undoubtedly risked his life to save a life. He had no communication device to know that fire and rescue units were on the way. He entered a fully engulfed burning house alone -and without breathing apparatus - knowing it could flashover at moment. There is no doubt that if he had not acted as he did, the woman would have had no chance of survival. There is also no doubt that he entered a house knowing it was close to complete incineration.

For his act of bravery involving extreme personal risk, in a life-threatening situation, that is clearly above and beyond the call of duty to act expeditiously and fearlessly to rescue a trapped elderly woman from a burning house, the Public Safety Award presents its highest honor - for only the 14th time in its 36 year history - the gold medal of valor to Master Firefighter David Yankey. We are very relieved and proud that you are here today to celebrate this significant accomplishment.