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Three Medal of Valor awards and eight Lifesaving awards as well as an Honorary Lifetime Dispatcher award were presented at the Burleson Police Department's annual banquet in January.

The top awards include Officer of the Year Tiffany Bauereisen, Supervisor of the Year Sgt. Craig Bastible, Civilian Employee of the Year Steve Haas, Telecommunicator of the Year Sabrina Rivera, Community Policing Award winner Officer Robert Collard, and Victims Assistance Coordinator Wanda Page - Ofelia Blair Character Award winner.

Shelly Watson, a public safety communications specialist, received a standing ovation when she was presented with the Honorary Lifetime Dispatcher Award. According to the nomination, Watson was honored for her "time and dedication to the dispatch center and for the love of her sisters and brothers in law enforcement."

Medal of Valor and Lifesaving awards were earned by Officer Scott Bartlett, Sgt. Bob Sherman, Sgt. Bastible and Officer Kasey Martin. Police Commendation and Life Saving honors went to Communication Specialists Dana Carey and Katie Reynolds, Det. Tom Catron and Communication Specialist Desire Norman, and Officers Tim Mabry and Chaz Garrett. Life Saving awards went to Officer Jonathan Gomez as well as Officer Nick Thorne and Communication Specialist Norman. In connection with the same group of incidents, Police Commendations were awarded to Officers Cameron Pilgrim, Bartlett, Brandon Wichman, and Garrett as well as Commander Chris Havens.

The honors were awarded in connection with a suicidal man who was stabbing himself in the arm with a knife; a distraught man threatening to jump off the overpass over Hwy. 174/Wilshire Boulevard; a suicidal person with a gun in a retail parking lot; a man threatening to electrocute himself in the bathtub; and a vehicle crash on I-35 South in which the driver was ejected from a vehicle and was severely injured. The officer performed CPR until medical personnel arrived. Additional honors were for an incident in which the public safety communication center handled a call of a driver who was threatening to harm himself but would not tell the police where he was located, and a burglary in progress at Zale's Diamond Store which quickly turned into a pursuit into Fort Worth. The vehicle Burleson officers were in pursuit of wrecked and one suspect was pinned under

the vehicle when it caught on fire. The officers helped lift the car so the suspect could be pulled to safety.

Meritorious Conduct awards were presented to Officer Collard, Officer Cody Austin, Officer Travis Brown, Records Clerk Karen Goodman, and Sgt. Brian O'Heren (two). The Meritorious Conduct awards included an incident in which an officer responded to a report of the mistreatment of a female who required a service animal; the leadership of the first officer on the scene of a shooting/murder at a residence; a suicidal person who the officer was able to talk into surrendering; the leadership exhibited by the team captain for the department's American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Burluson team; and the leadership of the sergeant in charge of the department's Citizens Police Academy and the Citizens On Patrol.

Community Service Awards were given in connection with the Relay For Life team members (the police department raised more than \$3,400) and to those department employees who assisted in teaching the Citizens Police Academy and the Citizens on Patrol program. The honorees include Records Supervisor Kathy James, Senior Administrative Assistant Lisa Cauthern, Commander Cindy Aaron, Sgt. Jody Trumble, Commander Doug Sandifer, Commander Havens, Chief Tom Cowan, Officer Shaun Kellum, Sgt. Darin Pool, Det. Catron, Det. Mike Owen, School Resource Officer Brad Schaefer, Sgt. Sherman, Officer Wichman, Officer Tracy Fowler, Det. Shannon Kimberling and Chaplain Scott Whitson (Relay For Life); Commander Sandifer, Sgt. Pool, Accreditation Manager Jae Berg, Criminal Investigations Clerk Sherra Hawpe, Communication Specialist Desire Norman, Officer Schaefer, Sgt. Bastible, Traffic Officer Jay Davis, Commander Aaron, Community Resource Officer Jack Goleman, Property and Evidence Coordinator Gayla Robison, Det. Catron, Officer Mabry, Sgt. Sherman, Officer Don Adams, Officer Shelly Henken, Officer John Brackett, and Sgt. Roger Hall (Citizens Police Academy); and Sgt. Sherman, Sgt. Bastible, Traffic Officer Davis, Sgt. Trumble, Officer Henken, Bauereisen, Garrett, Officer Kellum and Mabry (Citizens On Patrol).

Police Commendations were awarded to Community Resource Officer Goleman, Community Resource Officer David Wardlaw, Officer Pilgrim (two), Officer Martin (two), Sgt. Pool, Officer Bauereisen, Communication Supervisor Lisa Pollard, Lead Communication Specialist Karen Dawkins (two), Communication Specialist Carey (three), Communication Specialist Norman (2), Traffic Officer Davis, Officer Gomez, Officer Wichman, Communication Specialist Reynolds, Communication Specialist Trina Keeton, and Communication Specialist Verla Myers.

The Police Commendations were given to the Sworn Bike Unit officers who helped in shutting down and evacuating Cinco de Mayo in May 2012 before severe storms moved through; the professionalism of two officers who responded to the death of an infant; the teamwork of four communication specialists who handled a tornado emergency; the teamwork of two

communication specialists who fielded emergency calls and coordinated the responses of multiple agencies to a plane crash at Spinks Airport; the round the clock assistance of an officer who provides translation duties on a routine as well as an emergency basis; the arrest of two people and the recovery of evidence in a burglary of a motor vehicle/credit card abuse case; the teamwork of three officers in the arrest of a suspect in a convenience store burglary and recovery of thousands of dollars in merchandise; the professionalism of a communication specialist who tracked a Burleson officer, on GPS, as he followed a stolen vehicle into Fort Worth; the teamwork of two communication specialists who fielded the calls and helped coordinate the response to a plane that landed on the I-35 service road after the plane experienced an in-flight emergency; the teamwork of two communication specialists who handled a phone call from a crisis hotline that involved a suicidal woman; and the teamwork of two communication specialists who coordinated the response of officers and medical personnel to a shooting/fatality that resulted from a feud between neighbors;

Community Service awards were given to Officer Henken, Communication Specialist Norman, Officer Bauereisen, Officer Pilgrim, Det. Nick Grace, and Det. Owen (Red Vs. Blue charity softball game); School Resource Officer Mike Alley, Community Resource Officers Goleman and Wardlaw, Traffic Officer Davis, School Resource Officer Johnny Schumacher, Commander Havens, Sgt. Sherman, and Communication Specialist Dawkins (Shattered Dreams driving while intoxicated reenactment); Community Resource Officers Goleman and Wardlaw (National Night Out); Sgt. Sherman, Commander Havens, Commander Sandifer, Community Resource Officers Goleman and Wardlaw, and Det. Kimberling (Special Ed Track Meet); and Officer Henken, Sgt. O'Heren, and Officer Fowler (Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association fundraiser).

Civic Achievement honors were awarded to Chief Cowan and Commander Havens for their work with the Burleson Lions Club and to Sgt. Pool, Officer Garrett, Officer Bauereisen, Officer Pilgrim, and Officer Henken for their leadership and work with the Burleson Police Explorers Post.

Service award winners include: 35 years, Commander Aaron; 25 years, Officer Paul Lancaster and Public Safety Communication Supervisor Pollard; 20 years, School Resource Officer Schumacher; 15 years, Officer Brackett; 10 years, Officer Adams, School Resource Officer Alley, Communication Specialist Carey, Det. Catron, and Community Resource Officer Wardlaw; and five years, Accreditation Manager Berg, Officer George Ferguson, CID Clerk Hawpe, Officer Mark Pate, Officer Pilgrim, and School Resource Officer Birchie Stillwagoner.

Safe Driving Awards went to Sgt. Sherman, 18 years; Sgt. Wes Routson, 15 years; Sgt. Bastible, Officer Martin, Officer Bauereisen, and Traffic Officer Davis, six years; and Officer Mabry, Thorne and John Fields, three years.

And a Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Johnson County Pct. 2 Deputy Constable Sean Blanks for backing up Burleson Police officers on major calls as well as traffic stops.