

February 11, 2013

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The Burleson Police Department's 2012 Officer of the Year "has a strong teamwork attitude," according to the nomination read at the department's annual awards banquet in January.

Officer Tiffany Bauereisen was one of six officers nominated for Officer of the Year. The Haltom City native was hired by the Burleson Police Department in September 2005.

"I felt like this was a calling," the honoree said. "I wanted to make a difference."

According to the nomination, Bauereisen "has proven to be a dedicated and reliable officer. She can always be counted on to provide assistance to other officers and routinely volunteers to work extra shifts to assist with manpower issues."

Bauereisen is a member of the department's Honor Guard, is an advisor for the Burleson Police Explorers program, former member of the Sworn Bike Patrol unit, is a field training officer for new recruits, and is a former member of the department SWAT team. Bauereisen earned a Purple Heart in connection with a 2008 incident.

"She has developed into an excellent officer with a good knowledge of the law and the common sense necessary to know when discretion is called for," according to the nomination. "She is well liked by her fellow officers. Many of the younger officers look to her for advice and guidance and she gladly accepts the title of 'shift mom' while at work."

The honoree earned an associate's degree in applied science. She and her husband have been married for 21 years. Bauereisen's daughter attends Hill College and her son is enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.