



Everything Michigan

Five Genesee County-area officers honored for going beyond call of duty

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Laura Misjak | The Flint Journal

GENESEE COUNTY, Michigan — Three officers who saved an 82-year-old woman from a burning apartment building and two others who were involved in a deadly struggle with a suspected killer will be honored Tuesday for their heroic actions.



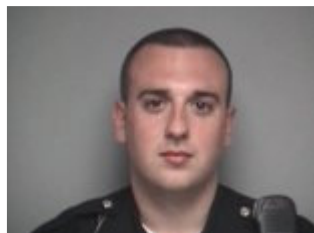
Sgt. Rhind

The Hundred Club of Flint, an organization that contributes money to the families of officers who have been killed in the line of duty, will honor the officers Tuesday at the Flint Golf Club.

The Tuesday members-only reception begins at 5 p.m. with dinner from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Flint Golf Club, 3100 Lakewood Drive in Flint.

A \$300 annual membership fee is required for members of the Hundred Club of Flint. For more information on attending the dinner or joining, call executive director Leanne Peterman at (810) 599-3751 or check out their website at

www.100clubofflint.org.



Officer Belanger

Grand Blanc City police Sgt. Chris Rhind and Grand Blanc Township officers Brian Savard and Joshua Belanger helped rescue the 82-year-old woman from an apartment fire at about 12:30 a.m. April 12.

A couch caught fire in the woman's third-story apartment at American House Senior Living Community in Grand Blanc.

Employees as the center had tried to save the woman, but there was too much smoke, Rhind said.

"So we kicked in the door," he said. "All three of us entered and we could only see two or three feet in front of us."



Officer Savard

The woman was in shock, standing and shaking in the apartment. She was treated for smoke inhalation and is now in good condition, Rhind said.

Grand Blanc Fire Chief Jim Harmes said the officers showed the importance of cooperation between separate departments.

"They didn't even consider their own well-being and health," he said. "They worked together and have always done that well."

Rhind said he was "very surprised" about the recognition.

"It's a great honor, but this is our job," he said.

Belanger, an officer at Grand Blanc Township for four and a half years, said he didn't know whether the woman was still alive when he helped kick in the door.

"Personally I was scared," he said. "We had to get in there as fast as we could to get her out."

He said he was simply doing his job.

"That's what we're there for," he said. "It's kind of nice that you do get recognized for something, but that's not what we're looking for."

FBI Special Agent Dann Harris and Genesee County Sheriff's Sgt. G. Scott Wright are also being recognized for their work with the Safe Streets Task Force in apprehending a murder suspect.

The two were involved in a Dec. 22 struggle with felon Kenneth Muse, who was killed in a struggle with Harris over a gun, said Sheriff Robert Pickell.

The task force had tracked Muse, 28, to an apartment near Hurley Medical Center. Muse was wanted for the 2004 death of gang member Robert Bradley.

Officials said Muse and Harris began to fight over a gun, and Wright ran upstairs hearing the scuffle. He shot Muse, Pickell said.

"What makes him a hero is most people hear gun shots and they run away. Wright ran right to it," Pickell said. "In my mind he's a real hero."

Peterman said the officers will each receive a watch at the ceremony.

"This is just to show our support for them and what they do putting their lives on the line for us every day," Peterman said. "They risk of all that for the things that they've done to be nominated."

The Hundred Club of Flint has also helped support public safety by purchasing equipment for departments, including bullet-proof vests, thermal-imaging cameras and helmets, Peterman said.

The organization has spent nearly \$1 million on equipment since 1986, she said.

"We're just fortunate to have a great organization like the One Hundred Club in Genesee County," he said. "I know I speak for all public safety people when I say it's a great organization."

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