



MPPOA NEWS RELEASE

Mahnomen County Deputy is Named Minnesota Police Officer of the Year *Responsible for the Capture of his Wounded Partner's Gunman*

Alexandria, MN (June 15, 2009) - Chad Peterson, a Deputy Sheriff with the Mahnomen County Sheriff's Department has been named the 2009 Minnesota Police Officer of the Year by the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association. On February 19, 2008, Deputy Peterson apprehended two suspects who had just shot his partner, Deputy Chris Dewey.

Deputy Peterson, whose shift was complete, offered to stay and assist his partner in patrolling a neighborhood reporting suspicious activity. While the two officers were investigating, Peterson heard gunshots. After several attempts to contact his partner, he raced to the scene and saw two individuals – one carrying a gun - running from Dewey's squad car. Peterson ran to the car, believing his partner had just been shot, but Deputy Dewey was not inside. Deputy Peterson saw the suspects about to enter a residence, identified the suspect with the gun, then shot and wounded him. Both suspects entered the home and later surrendered after a nine hour standoff. Deputy Peterson found his partner lying in the driveway of a nearby home, seriously wounded. Deputy Dewey was transported to a nearby hospital. He is currently rehabilitating in Colorado.



“Deputy Peterson encountered a scene that would strike fear in the heart of the most seasoned officer. He observed his partner's squad car in the middle of the street, with one male walking in front of the car and one emerging from behind the open driver's door carrying a handgun. He immediately believed that his partner had been shot and his quick action from that moment distinguished him as a true top cop.” said Dennis Flaherty, Executive Director of the 8,500 member Minnesota Police and Peace Officer's Association

“Deputy Peterson's actions no doubt directly allowed for the suspect's capture. His ability to remain calm in the face of what he confronted was a true testament to his skills as a police officer and to his bravery” Flaherty said.

Named as honorable mention award winners for the 2009 Police Officer of the Year Award were Donald Bray a Rochester Police Officer and Mike Huddle an officer with the St. Anthony Police Department.

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Bray is responsible for establishing a number of housing units near the Mayo Clinic. These residences are made available to police officers and their families who often spend days or weeks with loved ones who are being cared for at the Clinic. These families travel from all over the country - and the world. Since it began last year, Bray secured apartments assisting over fifty different officers and their families from twelve different states and one other country. None of these individuals had to pay a single cent for the accommodations.

Huddle who is a member of the East Metro SWAT team was called to execute a high risk search warrant on a suspected methamphetamine user's home in Roseville. Once inside the home, the suspect immediately began firing on members of the SWAT team. Huddle, armed with a ballistic shield, was the point person and was immediately met with rapid gunfire from the suspect's two handguns. Huddle was grazed on his arm and Officer John Jorgensen was stuck in the right arm during the intense firefight. Using his shield, Huddle successfully retreated from the area while protecting his team members, allowing them to safely exit the home. Because of his bravery and leadership Huddle was responsible for preventing more of his fellow officers from being harmed.

The awards were presented on Monday, June 15 at the Police Association's annual convention at the Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria, Minnesota.

The Minnesota Police & Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) was founded in 1922 and is the largest association representing police officers in Minnesota. Its membership consists of police officers working full time for every level of government in Minnesota. Its membership consists of municipal police officers, county deputy sheriffs, and peace officers employed by the state of Minnesota.

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