



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Business, Government, and Public Safety Leaders Celebrate Montgomery County's Heroes at the 44th Annual MCCC Public Safety Awards Luncheon

Rockville, MD – On March 16, 2018, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) brought nearly 1,200 business, government, and public safety leaders together to thank the brave men and women who protect our community every day at the 44th Annual MCCC Public Safety Awards Luncheon.

During the ceremony, the stories of the heroic acts by Valor Award recipients were shared by emcees Eun Yang and Leon Harris, both of NBC4. Incidents included:

Rooftop Arrest

- Police Officer III Brian Nesbitt (Bronze Medal)
- Sergeant Brian Parker (Honorable Mention)
- Police Officer II Katelyn Stevens (Honorable Mention)
- Police Office II Eric Houston (Honorable Mention)
- Police Office II Sean Brennan (Honorable Mention)
- Police Officer I James Mirra (Honorable Mention)

Single Family Home Fire Rescue

- Captain Michael W. Stream (Bronze Medal)
- Fire Fighter Rescuer III Yu-Lun Wu (Bronze Medal)

Michaels Store Response

- Police Officer II Charles Ricucci (Honorable Mention)
- Police Officer III Gregory Walker (Honorable Mention)

Parking Garage 4th floor Suicide

- Police Officer III Vincent Chan (Honorable Mention)
- Police Officer II Alex Lanham (Honorable Mention)

Emergency Room Assault Response

- Fire Fighter Rescuer III Dwight G. Reid (Honorable Mention)

Suicide Attempt Thwarted

- Officer Kendale Graves (Honorable Mention)

Westfield Wheaton Garage Rescue

- Police Officer III Andres Ramirez (Honorable Mention)

- Unit Citation to Corporal Athanasios Bakalis, Police Officer III Alan Yuill, Police Officer III Michael Giacalone, Police Officer III Kevin Correa

The Chief Bernard D. Crooke Jr. Community Service Award was presented to Police Officer III Melissa Coligan.

This year, attendees remembered and offered tribute to three fallen officers:

Master Firefighter Charles "Rick" Gentilcore was found on Friday, April 7, 2017, unresponsive at Burtonsville Fire Station 15 Department where he served as a firefighter for 23 years. Rick had served Montgomery County since 1994, first as a volunteer for Burtonsville VFD, and the last 11 years as a career member.

Deputy Chief State Fire Marshal Sander Cohen of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and also a lieutenant with the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department stopped to help a car on southbound I-270. The driver of the car was Supervisory Special Agent Carlos Wolff of the FBI. Both men were struck and killed in the incident on Friday, December 9, 2017.

Highlights of the event included:

- Leon Harris and Eun Yang, News Anchors, NBC4 Washington, DC exceed the valor awards portion of the event.
- The Honorable Isiah "Ike" Leggett received the MCCC Public Safety Champion of the Year Award presented by David Trone, Founder & Owner, Total Wine & More
- Suburban Hospital Level II Trauma Center received the MCCC Public Safety Corporate Vital Link Award presented by David Hargadon, Regional Vice President, Maryland Commercial Banking, TD Bank
- Regional Public Safety Agencies* that helped the MCPD solve the Disappearance Case of the Lyon Sisters received the MCCC Public Safety Government Partner of the Year Award presented by Bruce Fryer, Strategic Projects Sales Manager, Motorola Solutions. Agencies are:
 - o Federal Bureau of Investigation – Baltimore Field Office
 - o Virginia State Police
 - o Bedford County Sheriff's Office, Bedford County, Virginia
 - o Prince William County Police Department, Prince William County, Virginia
 - o The Commonwealth's Attorney Office, Bedford County, Virginia
 - o The Commonwealth's Attorney Office, Prince William County, Virginia

In addition, 132 Montgomery County Police Department detectives received a Unit Citation (some posthumously) for their work over the years on this case.

Congressman John Sarbanes, Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, and Montgomery County Council President Hans Riemer also shared their gratitude during the ceremony.

Prior to the Awards Ceremony, awardees and special guests met the five Public Safety Chiefs of Montgomery County at the Meet the Chiefs Reception, sponsored by Pepco, An Exelon Company, followed by the General Reception, sponsored by Marriott International.

The Annual MCCC Public Safety Awards is the largest of its kind in the region. Forty four years ago, the MCCC was chartered by Montgomery County Government to host an annual event where the community, colleagues, families, citizens and officials could honor first responders from the public safety agencies.

For more information on the event and award recipients, see the [44th Annual MCCC Public Safety Awards program book](#). For pictures from the event, [click here](#).

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