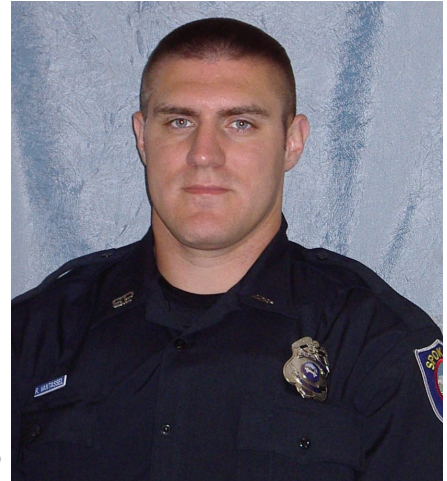


OFFICER RON VANTASSEL



The Lifesaving Award is given to department personnel who, by their immediate actions, have saved a human life under unusual and/or extraordinary circumstances.



On June 1, 2007 at approximately 0302 hours, Officer Derek Bishop, Officer Ron VanTassel and Sergeant Troy Teigen, responded to the 2300 block of S. Jefferson, regarding a suicidal female. The female had emailed her last will and testament to her ex-husband in Idaho. In turn, he called a mutual friend who went to the suicidal female's address and heard the cars running in the garage, but was afraid to go in, and he then telephoned police.

Officer VanTassel arrived and contacted the complainant who told him the suicidal female was in the garage. He could hear the vehicle running in the garage and could feel the door was hot to the touch and locked. He forced entry to the garage. Officer Bishop and Sergeant Teigen then entered the garage. The garage was filled with exhaust fumes and the temperature in the garage was estimated at over 100 degrees. Both vehicles in the garage were running. Officer VanTassel entered the garage and opened the overhead door. Officer Bishop, Sergeant Teigen and Officer VanTassel removed the suicidal female from the garage. The victim was barely breathing and unconscious, her skin was hot to the touch and her eyes were open, constricted and non-responsive to light. Sergeant Teigen gave the victim about 20 breaths of air to inflate her lungs and exchange the air in her lungs while waiting for medical personnel to arrive. A suicide note and empty wine glass were located in the garage. The victim was transported to Deaconess Hospital by ambulance.

Officer VanTassel acted decisively when faced with an emergency situation. The rapid response, quick thinking and medical intervention provided the suicidal female with an opportunity to live. It is apparent that the actions of Officer Bishop, Sergeant Teigen and Officer VanTassel prevented the loss of life from this suicide attempt and are truly deserving of the Lifesaving Medal.



Officer VanTassel, Sergeant Teigen & Officer Bishop