

OFFICER GENE BALDWIN



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 August 13, 2008, dispatch was notified by a passing off duty deputy that a woman had stopped her car in the middle of Monroe Street Bridge and was standing on the outside of the railing.

Officers Baldwin and Wheeler arrived on scene first and began talking with the young woman. She was obviously distraught and had been drinking. The woman was not cooperative and was becoming more angry. Officers requested a negotiator respond to the scene and asked that other officers stay back due to her increasing anger.

As the negotiators arrived on scene, the woman continued to cry and was very distraught. She squatted down on the ledge which was about eight inches wide and sloped downward. Officers Baldwin and Wheeler devised a split second plan and both simultaneously grabbed the girl and plucked her off the ledge onto the walkway. They believed that based upon her facing away and not being able to see their approach that they had a good chance of being successful—and they were correct.

This was an amazing rescue that required quick decision making, courage and unique ability. Officers Baldwin and Wheeler used outstanding judgment by attempting to get negotiators on scene and then making and executing their plan of action in literally seconds.

Officers Baldwin and Wheeler were issued the Lifesaving Bar, to be worn on their uniforms. They received their Lifesaving Medals at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February of 2009.

