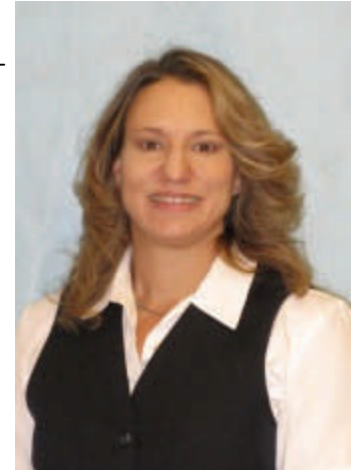


OFFICER ELISE ROBERTSON



The Medal of Merit is awarded to employees who distinguish themselves by meritorious achievement or service. Meritorious actions are those which clearly surpass that which is normally required or expected.



In his nomination letter, Sergeant Hensley described Officer Elise Robertson's actions in the early morning hours of May 22, 2001. A garage at 1917 E. Pacific was fully engulfed in flames, and she noticed the fire was beginning to spread. Officer Robertson checked the homes nearby to alert residents to the danger. While doing this, she realized that what had appeared to be a garage had actually been converted into a small house. A citizen advised her that someone was living there.

The fire had burned utility poles, and wires were down. After advising other officers of the danger, Officer Robertson ran to the house, traversing the downed power lines and flames, while the heat became more intense and electrical transformers blew. As she tried to contact the occupant, the siding on the house started to melt. Officer Robertson ran to the other side of the house; and, together with Officer Conway, contacted the resident, who left the house at their urging.

Sergeant Hensley advised that Officer Robertson placed herself in danger to save an individual whom she did not know, from a fire that was so intense that it burned her hair and melted the nylon threads on her uniform patches.

Officer Robertson was awarded the Medal of Merit at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February of 2002.