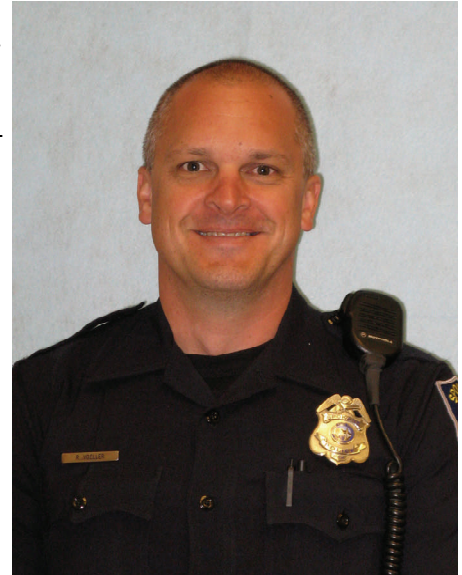


# OFFICER RON VOELLER



The Medal of Valor is the highest recognition of achievement presented by the Department. It is awarded to employees who distinguish themselves with extraordinary acts of bravery or heroism above and beyond that normally expected in the line of duty.



On January 28, 2002, Officer Ron Voeller responded to 900 E Augusta to back up a Sergeant on a traffic stop. Unknown to them at the time, the suspect was a heavily armed ex-convict who had recently committed several armed robberies. The traffic stop rapidly escalated into a physical confrontation when the suspect accessed a firearm. While leaning through the suspect's car window, Officer Voeller was in a hand-to-hand struggle for control of the weapon. The suspect showed no signs of cooperating or releasing his grip on the weapon, even after multiple blows to the head with the Sergeant's flashlight.

At this time, Sergeant Marc Wheelwright arrived and tried to get in a position to help. Eventually, when all other attempts at gaining control of the suspect's gun failed, Sergeant Wheelwright had no choice but to apply lethal force.

Officer Voeller demonstrated extreme courage and tenacity, at the risk of his own life, by maintaining contact with the suspect and his firearm; even when it came to bear directly on his face, more than once. In his mind, Officer Voeller had accepted the fact that he might be shot, but he would not disengage for fear that if he did, the other two officers would be at risk. He realized that the suspect was gaining leverage on him by moving further into the vehicle, pulling Officer Voeller with him; and he would still not give up. Clearly Officer Voeller's actions were selfless and directly responsible in preventing the other officers from being shot.

The department is proud to recognize Officer Ron Voeller with the Medal of Valor. Officer Voeller was presented with his Medal at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February of 2004.

