

# OFFICER GLENN BARTLETT



The Silver Star is awarded to employees who have displayed courageous actions above and beyond that normally expected. These acts of courage do not rise to the level of the voluntary risk of life requirements for the Medal of Valor, but are displays of exemplary acts of bravery.



On March 19, 2009 at approximately 2100 hours, while off-duty, Officer Glenn Bartlett and his wife were on their way home from the Airway Heights area. As they drove in the area of Seven Mile Road and Inland Road, Officer Bartlett saw a car in the roadway with its emergency flashers on. As he drove closer, he saw two other vehicles, a pick-up truck and a Jaguar sedan heavily damaged and in the road. Officer Bartlett parked his car and immediately took action to determine who was involved and whether the involved parties were injured in the collision. He quickly determined that the driver of the pick-up was injured, however, not seriously and able to wait for medical attention. Officer Bartlett then checked the Jaguar and found an unconscious, gravely injured man in the front seat. He then saw there was fire coming from under the hood of the Jaguar.

Officer Bartlett tried to free the man, who was apparently pinned within the vehicle due to the extreme damage and intrusion into the passenger compartment. The driver's door would not open, so Officer Bartlett attempted to pry it open using his hands and strength to pull on the upper window frame, bending it drastically. During this time, the fire within the engine compartment became more intense. The smoke and flames made it almost impossible to remain at the victim's car. Officer Bartlett had to run from the smoke into the fresh air at least twice to get a breath, and then return to the car to resume his rescue attempt. Officer Bartlett's wife was still in their car and only able to see the smoke, flames and Officer Bartlett running out of the smoke and then back into harms way.

Officer Bartlett pulled on the injured man, attempting to free him, even when the flames, smoke and heat became so intense that he received first degree burns on his face. Officer Bartlett determined the victim's legs were trapped, making it impossible to free him without the use of specialized equipment. He discontinued his attempts and shortly after, the car exploded and was fully involved in fire.

Officer Bartlett selflessly exposed himself to extraordinary risk in his attempts to rescue the gravely injured occupant of the Jaguar. He had no protective equipment and no specialized training in vehicle extractions, yet he did not give up until further attempts became impossible. Spokane County Fire District 9 Deputy Chief C. Jack Cates wrote a recognition letter describing the above incident and Officer Bartlett's actions. Chief Cates stated Officer Bartlett's actions are certainly noteworthy and indicative of his bravery and valor.

Officer Bartlett was issued the Silver Star Bar, to be worn on his uniform.

He will also be present with the Silver Star Medal at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony, in February 2010.