

CORPORAL RAY HARDING



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 Christmas Day 2002, Corporal Ray Harding and Officer Rich Meyer responded to a call of a suicidal male who had poured gasoline throughout his house and started a fire. As the fire began to engulf the upper floor of the house, they tried to get the man to exit the house, but he refused. As the fire began to spread rapidly, the man then began calling for help. Corporal Harding and Officer Meyer were able to open the back door and saw the man lying on the upstairs landing, apparently unconscious. Due to the man's previous history of violence, fire personnel would not enter the house.

Without regard for their own safety, Corporal Harding and Officer Meyer made the decision to rescue the man. Even though the upper floor of the house was filled with smoke and on fire, they risked their own lives to pull the man down the stairs and out to fire personnel for treatment. It should be noted that the man had poured gasoline all over himself as well.

Corporal Harding and Officer Meyer are to be commended for their dedication to the law enforcement profession and for their willingness to put aside their own personal safety to save the life of a citizen, who surely would have perished without assistance and their actions should be recognized. Corporal Harding and Officer Meyer were issued the Silver Star Bar, to be worn on their uniform. They were awarded the Silver Star Medal at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February of 2003.

