



SERGEANT MARC WHEELWRIGHT



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.



Sergeant Mark Wheelwright was the responding sergeant to 900 E Augusta to back up Officer Ron Voeller and another sergeant on a traffic stop. When Sergeant Wheelwright arrived, he witnessed a violent struggle taking place between the suspect and two officers. Although he could not become involved in the physical confrontation due to restricted space, Sergeant Wheelwright maintained presence looking for an opportunity to engage. Officer Voeller was leaning through the suspect's driver side window and was in a hand-to-hand struggle for control of the suspect's gun, while the other sergeant was in the passenger side of the vehicle delivering blows with his flashlight. The suspect was not responding to orders or to less lethal uses of force to get him to let go of his gun.

Sergeant Wheelwright recognized the immediate peril that all officers, particularly Officer Voeller, were in and acted decisively to terminate the life threatening conduct of the suspect who was gaining increasing control of his gun. Not only did he correctly decide to apply deadly force to the suspect, he did it in a well-reasoned manner that created minimal danger to the other two officers who were physically engaged with the suspect.

Sergeant Wheelwright responded quickly to assist fellow officers, where considerable threat to his safety was present. His bravery training and professionalism brought a life threatening confrontation to an end. The department is proud to recognize Sergeant Marc Wheelwright with the Silver Star Award.

Sergeant Wheelwright was issued the Silver Star Bar to be worn on his uniform. He was awarded his Silver Star Medal at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February of 2004.

