



NEWS RELEASE

Paul M. Tiernan, Chief of Police

October 27, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Newark Police Officers Honored by Knights of Columbus

On October 25, Knights of Columbus St. Michael Council #4548 presented Officer of the Quarter Awards to Newark Police Officers for outstanding performance during the first half of 2010. At a meeting and dinner presided over by Grand Knight Brian Kunkel at Holy Family Church, the officers were given a plaque to commemorate the awards.

Officer of the Quarter, first quarter 2010: *Det. Nicholas Sansone and Det. Michael Watson.* Det. Sansone and Det. Watson were nominated for their investigation in the case of a child who was abandon in a gas station bathroom. In the first 24 hours, both detectives worked numerous hours following up leads called in to the police department. On February 23rd at approximately 1:30 a.m., the detectives received another call. This one was from a man identifying himself as Dwayne Jackson, the father of the 20 month-old child. This call was the beginning of a work shift which totaled approximately 34 hours, travel to and from Middlesex County New Jersey, and work with three police agencies looking into the murder of the child's mother, Patricia Belizaire. Through the efforts of Det. Watson and Det. Sansone, the investigation positively identified the child in Delaware, connected her to the burnt dead body found in New York, and brought her mother's murderer to justice in New Jersey. Dwayne Jackson is currently incarcerated in New Jersey, awaiting trial on the murder charge.

Officer of the Quarter, second quarter 2010: *Cpl. Craig Maurer and P.O. William Smith.* Cpl. Maurer and Police Officer Smith were nominated for their actions while patrolling in the area of the Newark Shopping Center on June 6. Cpl. Maurer saw a suspect standing several feet away from a victim, firing a handgun directly at the victim. P/O Smith immediately notified Newark Police Dispatch of the incident and the location, as Cpl. Maurer exited the patrol vehicle and gave chase. With little regard for his own safety, and knowing the immediate threat that the suspect posed to both himself and the victim, Cpl. Maurer pursued the suspect and quickly apprehended him without further incident. Immediately upon completing the radio transmission, and only several steps behind Cpl. Maurer, P.O. Smith exited the patrol vehicle and assisted in taking control of the incident, placing all subjects on the ground until the situation could be sorted out and additional officers arrived on scene. There is no doubt that Cpl. Maurer and Cpl. Smith's actions saved the victim from being seriously injured in this incident.

Media Contact: Lt. Brian Henry, Public Information Officer, 302-366-7110 ext 125 or brian.henry@cj.state.de.us.



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Newark Police Chief Paul Tiernan thanked the Knights, “The Newark Police Department extends its sincere gratitude to the St. Michael Council of the Knights of Columbus for their continued sponsorship of this award. The Knights’ support and recognition of the officers of the Newark Police Department is greatly appreciated.”

The Officer of the Quarter Award originated in 1991, and has been presented each quarter for the past 19 years.

Attached photos: credit to Carmelo Palazzo, Knights of Columbus.

1. Capt. John Potts and Det. Nicholas Sansone
2. Capt. John Potts and Det. Michael Watson
3. Capt. John Potts and Cpl. Craig Maurer
4. Capt. John Potts and P.O. William Smith

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