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June 27, 2024

MEDIA ADVISORY

30th Annual Public Safety Awards Breakfast Ceremony Recognize 58 Local Heroes in the Upcounty

The Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce (GGCC) hosted its 30th Annual Public Safety Awards Breakfast this morning at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg. The event honored 58 men and women who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to protect the public safety in the Upcounty. Public safety personnel from several jurisdictions were recognized. Each received an official Certificate of Congratulations from the Montgomery County Council, signed by Council President Andrew Friedson, a Senate of Maryland Citation from State Senator Cheryl Kagan (D17), a Maryland General Assembly Proclamation from Senator Brian Feldman (D15) and the D15 Delegation, and a Certificate of Special Recognition from US Senator Benjamin Cardin. Each honoree also received a small gift, donated by our Chamber members.

Highlights of the program included a celebration of the career of retiring Montgomery County Chief of Police Marcus Jones, led by Captain Eric Stancliff, Commander of the 6th District; and the awarding of the Medal of Valor to Sergeant Patrick Kepp, MCPD Traffic Division, and awarding of Citations for Bravery, Distinguished Service Citations, and Meritorious Service Citations to the many personnel from various agencies involved in the response to the incident on I270 in October 2023 that saved Sgt. Kepp's life and ultimately resulted in the apprehension of the suspect that caused the near-fatal incident.

Who: *Full list of honorees included below.

*Elected officials in attendance included

- MD State Assembly:
 - State Senator Cheryl Kagan – District 17
 - State Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr – District 17
 - State Delegate Linda Foley – District 15
 - State Delegate Greg Wims – District 39
- Montgomery County Council:
 - Marilyn Balcombe – District 2

- Sidney Katz – District 3
- Dawn Luedtke – District 7
- Gabe Albornoz – At Large
- City of Gaithersburg:
 - Mayor Jud Ashman
 - Council Vice President Jim McNulty
 - Council Member Lisa Henderson
- And representatives of our Elected Leaders:
 - Representing US Senator Ben Cardin, Kevin Mack
 - Representing County Executive Marc Elrich, Dr. Earl Stoddard
 - From the Upcounty Regional Services Center, Director Ruben Rosario

*Agencies and organizations represented for honor:

- MD State Police
- Montgomery County Police Department – 5th District, 6th District, 1st District, Traffic Division
- Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
- Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service
- Gaithersburg Police Department
- Asbury Methodist Village

*Sponsors of the event included:

- 17-yr Gold Title Sponsor – Paul Davis Restoration & Remodeling
- Silver Sponsor – M&T Bank
- Bronze Sponsors – Gaithersburg CPAs, Holy Cross Health, Hughes Network Systems, Qiagen, Supporting Strategies
- A full list of event sponsors can be found [here](#).

*In addition to awards presentations, remarks were provided by:

- Mayor Jud Ashman, City of Gaithersburg
- Montgomery County Police Chief Marcus Jones
- Brock Merwin, Paul Davis Restoration & Remodeling
- Heather Madsion (Peterson Companies), Chair, GGCC Board of Directors
- Michele Potter (Asbury Methodist Village, Vice Chair for Member Programs, GGCC Board of Directors
- Steve Barber, Chair-Elect of the GGCC Board of Directors, representing the GGCC Community Foundation Board of Directors to present a donation from Chamber members to Shop with a Cop programs.
- Paula Ross, GGCC President & CEO

Photos/Reel: Official event photos will be available from Hilary Schwab Photography in the coming days, and available for use from the Chamber's [facebook](#) page. Included here are amateur photos available for publication today. A short reel may be

viewed and shared from our IG [here](#) or you can also find us on tiktok at [@GGCCtiktok](#).

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About the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce

For 75 years, the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce has been the leading advocate for businesses along the upper I270 corridor in Montgomery County, commonly called the “Upcounty.” We specifically serve the business communities in Gaithersburg, Germantown, Clarksburg, and Damascus; our membership currently includes approximately 470 members in dozens of industries. Our members range in size from volunteer-run nonprofits with zero employees, to solopreneurs, to businesses with thousands of employees in the Upcounty. We are committed to being a voice for all businesses in the Upcounty, resulting in a business-friendly environment and high quality of life in our community. www.ggchamber.org.

See following pages for honoree information.



**Honorees from the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce
30th Annual Public Safety Awards Breakfast
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A Special Citation for Distinguished Service was presented to retiring Chief of Police Marcus Jones, with remarks from Captain Eric Stancliff, Commander of the 6D Station.

Presented by Lt. Carlo Corvoisier, MCPD 5D:

Sergeant Patrick Kepp	Montgomery County Police, Traffic Division	Medal of Valor
Sergeant Matthew Krest #2142	Montgomery County Police, 5D	Meritorious Service Citation
Police Officer III Andre Smith #2786	Montgomery County Police, 5D	Citation for Bravery
Police Officer III Julian Martinez #3105	Montgomery County Police, 5D	
Police Officer III Matthew Duerr #2786	Montgomery County Police, Traffic Division	
Police Officer III Nicole Seymour #3052	Montgomery County Police, 6D	
Police Officer II Diane Burkes #3237	Montgomery County Police, 6D	
Police Officer Nicholas Ozkayan #7884	City of Gaithersburg Police Department	

Presented by Assistant Chief Michael Nelson, MCFRS:

Captain Thomas Gartner	MCFRS, PAT708	Distinguished Service Citation
Master Fire Fighter David P. Wallace	MCFRS, PAT708	
Master Fire Fighter Tyler D. Kime	MCFRS, PAT708	
Fire Fighter III Patrick James R. Hathaway	MCFRS, PAT708	
Captain Larry R. Lofland	MCFRS, Paramedic Engine 734	
Master Fire Fighter Michael P. Steed	MCFRS, Paramedic Engine 734	
Fire Fighter III Richard Grant, Jr.	MCFRS, Paramedic Engine 734	
Fire Fighter II John C. Riley	MCFRS, Paramedic Engine 734	
Fire Fighter III Ryan M. Bowe	MCFRS, Medic 729	
Fire Fighter III Cory P. Budziszewski	MCFRS, Medic 729	
Captain Robert D. Dutrow	MCFRS, EMS703	



Cont'd:
Honorees from the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce
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Presented by Captain Eric Stancliff, Commander MCPD 6D:

Police Officer 3 Alex Fusco	Montgomery County Police, 6D	Citation for Bravery
Police Officer 3 William McIntyre	Montgomery County Police, 6D	Distinguished Service Citation
Police Officer 3 Ruth Zotti	Montgomery County Police, 6D	
Police Officer 2 Alex Alizaga Silva	Montgomery County Police, 6D	
Police Officer 2 Daniel Kim	Montgomery County Police, 6D	

Presented by Lee Thomas-Palmer, Asbury Methodist Village:

Leona Kazanga	Caregiver at Asbury	Citation for Bravery
Maria Flores	Certified Medicine Technician at Asbury	

Presented by Lt. Cody Fields, MCPD 5D:

Sergeant Robert Kamensky	Montgomery County Police, 5D	Distinguished Service Citation
Police Officer Sean Lynch	Montgomery County Police, 5D	

Presented by Captain Eric Stancliff, Commander MCPD 6D:

Sergeant Alex Dos Santos	Montgomery County Police, 6D	Distinguished Service Citation
Corporal Randy Morgan	Montgomery County Police, 6D	
Police Officer 3 Alex Fusco	Montgomery County Police, 6D	
Police Officer 3 William McIntyre	Montgomery County Police, 6D	
Police Officer 3 Andres Naranjo-Cano	Montgomery County Police, 6D	
Police Officer 3 Ruth Zotti	Montgomery County Police, 6D	

Presented by Chief Deputy Robert Lehman, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office:

Deputy Sheriff III Shane Scott	Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Court Services Division	Distinguished Service Citation
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**Cont'd:
Honorees from the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce
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Presented by Chief Deputy Robert Lehman, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office:

Lt. Vithaya Iem	Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Suicide Negotiator Callout	Distinguished Service Citation
Sergeant Ryan Biedlingmaier	Montgomery County Police, 1D	
Police Officer III Alexander Kettering	Montgomery County Police, 1D	

Presented by Assistant Chief Michael Nelson, MCFRS:

Captain John W. Horrell	MCFRS, Paramedic Engine 732	Distinguished Service Citation
Fire Fighter III Brenton J. Nelson	MCFRS, Paramedic Engine 732	
Fire Paramedic III Kyle R. McCuaig	MCFRS, Paramedic Engine 732	
Fire Fighter II Ian S. Williams	MCFRS, Paramedic Engine 732	
Fire Fighter I Anthony S. Costa	MCFRS, Paramedic Engine 732	
Fire Fighter III Jonathan J. Silberhorn	MCFRS, Medic 708	
Fire Paramedic III Todd M. Lightcap	MCFRS, Medic 708	

Presented by Lt. Cody Fields, MCPD 5D:

Sergeant Bill Drew	Montgomery County Police, 5D	Meritorious Service Citation
Crime Analyst Tina Lowe	Montgomery County Police, 5D	
Corporal Michael Mancuso	Montgomery County Police, 5D	
Police Officer Doug Styles	Montgomery County Police, 5D	
Police Officer Bassel Ifield	Montgomery County Police, 5D	
Police Officer Robert Zaal	Montgomery County Police, 5D	
Sergeant Neal Mohardt	Montgomery County Police, 6D	
Police Officer Jonathan Anspach	Montgomery County Police, 6D	
Police Officer Michael Hartman	Montgomery County Police, 6D	
Police Officer Anders Johnson	Montgomery County Police, 6D	
Police Officer Brian Helton	Montgomery County Police, 6D	

Presented by Officer Marcus Dixon, MCPD 5D:

Police Officer 3 John Johnson	Montgomery County Police, 5D	Meritorious Service Citation
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Presented by Lt. Vincent Upole, MD State Police:

Corporal Andre M. Butler	Maryland State Police	Meritorious Service Citation
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GGCC Board Chair Heather Madison, Captain Eric Stancliff, Police Chief Marcus Jones, and GGCC President & CEO Paula Ross



Officers from Gaithersburg Police, MCFRS, MCPD 5D, 6D, and Traffic Division, gather with Commanding Officers after receiving various awards. Sgt. Patrick Kepp is center, and received the Medal of Valor.

GGCC'S 30TH ANNUAL PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS BREAKFAST



THURSDAY, JUNE 27TH
7:30 AM - 10:30 AM

MONTGOMERY COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CENTER, INC.
16 CHESTNUT STREET
HERITAGE BUILDING
GAITHERSBURG



Title Sponsor

