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**Contact:**

[Dave Metusalem](#)

612-554-8124

**St. Louis County Deputy Derrick Deutsch named 2018 Police Officer of the Year**

*La Crescent Police Officers Ryan Quanrud & Christopher Frick, State Trooper Mark Peterson receive honorable mentions*

SAINT PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) yesterday awarded its highest honor – Police Officer of the Year – to St. Louis County Deputy Derrick Deutsch. Deputy Deutsch’s quick thinking in a difficult situation in December 2017 was praised as “nothing short of heroic” by Lieutenant Nate Skelton, who works with Deutsch out of the county’s Virginia, Minnesota, office.

On December 22, 2017, Deputy Deutsch was in Gilbert, Minnesota, when he heard a call on his radio from Officer Joseph Bradach of the Gilbert Police Department. Officer Bradach had spotted a woman with an outstanding arrest warrant and was going to bring her into custody. Deputy Deutsch offered his assistance.

Upon arriving at the scene, Deutsch encountered a man fleeing and pursued him on foot. During the pursuit, the man brandished a black and silver object. Realizing it was a gun pointed at him, Deutsch quickly tried to take cover behind a vehicle but slipped and fell in the snowy, icy conditions. Out of self-defense and fearing for his life, Deutsch fired three shots, knocking the man back to the ground. The suspect also fired three shots, one of which struck Deputy Deutsch.

Officer Bradach arrived seconds later. Deputy Deutsch stood up – despite being injured by a bullet – and he and Bradach ordered the suspect to drop his weapon. When the suspect did not and began swinging his gun in their direction, the officers fired several more shots. The man was later identified as Jeffrey Golnick, who had been listed as a wanted fugitive by the Minnesota Department of Corrections one month earlier. Golnick had a previous conviction of assault in the first degree when he fired shots at Virginia, Minnesota, police officers in 2005.

The entire incident – from Deputy Deutsch’s arrival on the scene to the final shots that killed Golnick – lasted 44 seconds.

“Rare incidents like these demonstrate the true character of an officer,” added MPPOA Executive Director Dave Metusalem. “Without warning, Deputy Deutsch had to rise to the challenge and make important, life-changing decisions. His actions were courageous, his judgement was sound, and I am so grateful that he is a member of Minnesota’s law enforcement community.”

St. Louis County Attorney Mark Rubin, recognizing the necessity of Deutsch’s actions after a review by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension in January 2018, said that his quick thinking “saved not only their lives, but possibly also the lives of other citizens.”

### Honorable mentions

MPPOA is proud to also recognize **La Crescent Police Department Officers Ryan Quanrud and Christopher Frick** this year.

At approximately 1 a.m. on the morning of July 31, 2017, Officers Quanrud and Frick were taking an authorized break at a local convenience store. From their location in the store, the officers could see the store's surveillance monitors and outside to the fuel pump area. While there, they witnessed a man approach the store but not enter when he made eye contact with the officers. He returned to a vehicle in the fuel pump area and a second man hurriedly entered the store to pay for the gas, notably avoiding making eye contact with the officers.

Noting the unusual behavior, Officers Quanrud and Frick felt it was appropriate to investigate further. Officer Quanrud observed the vehicle leaving the store and followed it to verify the vehicle registration and monitor conduct. Officer Frick followed soon after in his own squad car.

After observing the vehicle traveling eight miles over the speed limit and crossing over traffic lane markers several times, Officer Quanrud proceeded to make a traffic stop. When he approached the vehicle, a shotgun barrel was pointed toward his head and discharged. Fortunately, the bullet passed inches from his head – but from Officer Frick's vantage point, he thought Quanrud had just been shot in the head. Both officers quickly returned fire as the vehicle sped away, and Officer Frick pursued the suspect car during which time the two occupants continued to fire several rounds, hitting Frick's squad car.

As the pursuit continued, Caledonia Police Officer Nate Pearson was able to successfully deploy stop sticks to halt the vehicle. Both men fled the car on foot, disappearing into a corn field with weapons. Aided by Houston County Sheriff Lieutenant Brian Swedberg and Officer Pearson, Officers Frick and Quanrud were able to establish a perimeter. Ultimately, the suspects emerged from the corn field and surrendered without any further exchange of gun fire.

"The conduct of Officers Quanrud and Frick exemplify professional law enforcement," said Metusalem. "These officers took note of an unusual situation, pursued it in an ethical and law-abiding manner, and avoided any major damage, injury, or loss of life in the process."

**State Trooper Mark Peterson** is another honorable mention recipient this year.

On March 5, 2018, Trooper Peterson came upon a vehicle that had spun out. After stopping to assist and subsequently realizing the vehicle had been reported stolen in Wisconsin, he asked the driver to exit the vehicle.

While Trooper Peterson was attempting to handcuff the driver, the passenger in the vehicle exited, pointed a handgun at him, and pulled the trigger – but the gun failed to discharge. In response, Trooper Peterson fired his service handgun and struck the passenger in her right arm. She then dropped her weapon and began to flee the scene.

Aided by an off-duty 911 dispatcher who came upon the scene, Trooper Peterson secured the driver in the backseat of his squad car and pursued the passenger, who eventually collapsed in a field. Other responding officers from the State Patrol, the Clay County Sheriff's Office, and the Moorhead and

Dilworth Police Departments helped secure the suspects, who had outstanding warrants in Wisconsin for kidnapping and other felony charges.

“Trooper Peterson has been a true asset to the State Patrol since he joined in 1999,” said Trooper Joe Dellwo, president of the Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association. “His courageous actions when confronted by two dangerous felons embody the highest traditions of MPPOA, and he is more than deserving of recognition for his tireless service to Minnesota.”

**About the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association**

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) was founded in 1922 as the voice of rank and file officers in Minnesota and is resolutely committed to maintaining the highest standards of ethics, integrity, honor and courtesy in the policing profession. MPPOA’s membership consists of municipal police officers, county deputy sheriffs, and officers employed by the State of Minnesota.

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