

The Congressional Badge of Bravery



Every day, federal, state, and local law enforcement officers engage in exceptional acts of bravery while in the line of duty. Often, such acts place the officers involved at personal risk of injury or result in their sustaining a physical injury. To honor these acts of bravery, Congress passed the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-298), creating the Federal Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery and the State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery. The act establishes an award to honor exceptional acts of bravery in the line of duty by federal, state, and local law enforcement officers. The medals are awarded annually by the U.S. Attorney General and are presented by the recipients' Congressional representatives. To meet the definition of an act of bravery, nominees for the Congressional Badge of Bravery must have either sustained a physical injury while: (1) Engaged in the lawful duties of the individual, and Performing an act characterized as bravery by the agency head who makes the nomination, and Being at personal risk; or (2) Although not injured, performed an act characterized as bravery by the agency head who makes the nomination that placed the individual at risk of serious physical injury or death.

Military Medals



The Bronze Star:

The Bronze Star Medal, unofficially the Bronze Star, is a United States decoration awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone.



The Purple Heart:

Created by George Washington during the Revolutionary War, the Purple Heart is a United States military decoration awarded in the name of the president to those wounded or killed while serving with the U.S. military.

Honors Ceremony for

Justin T. Ferrari
Volusia County Sheriff's Deputy
Congressional Badge of Bravery

&
William D. Holder
MSgt., United States Air Force (Ret.)
Bronze Star, Purple Heart



September 19, 2018



Justin T. Ferrari, Volusia County Sheriff's Deputy

Congressional Badge of Bravery

On July 24, 2016, the Volusia County Sheriff's Office received a call from a complainant that her estranged husband was holding her against her will inside their residence. On arrival, the deputies heard shots being fired from inside the residence and immediately sought cover. They could hear the female victim inside the residence screaming for help, as well as a male subject yelling that he was going to kill her. They then heard a young child pleading, "Please don't kill mommy!" followed by yet another gunshot. With extremely heightened concern, the deputies sprung into tactical action as yet more gunshots came from the residence. Moments later, the female complainant climbed out of a window while bleeding from a gunshot wound to her leg. The deputies returned fire and engaged in an active gunfight with the suspect. With the victim pinned down and in a tremendously vulnerable position at the front of the residence, Deputy Ferrari leapt into action. Leaving his position of cover, he exposed himself to the deadly threat by running into the gunfire to drag the victim approximately 80 feet to the safety of a neighbor's front door. Once relieved by a fellow EMS trained officer, Deputy Ferrari re-entered the scene of the gunfight. The victim's estranged husband eventually surrendered to deputies, and she was reunited with her three young children. The actions of Deputy Ferrari demonstrated extraordinary bravery, decisiveness, and a willingness to protect the lives of others, without regard to his own personal safety.

Originally from Indiana, Deputy Ferrari grew up in West Volusia, where he lives with his wife, Abby. He has been with the Sheriff's office for three years.

William D. Holder, United States Air Force (Ret.)

Military Honors Including Bronze Star, Purple Heart

Born in 1937, MSgt. Holder entered the United States Air Force in 1956 in Knoxville, Tennessee, and served in the U.S., Germany and two tours in Vietnam, where he was wounded. His decorations and honors include: the Bronze Star Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, RVN Gallantry Cross with Palm, Army Good Conduct Medal with 2 Bronze Clasps, AF Longevity Service Award Ribbon with 1 Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, AF Outstanding Unit Award, AF Good Conduct Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Purple Heart. He retired in 1980 in New Hampshire due to his disability, and moved to DeLand, Florida, in 1987. He's a lifetime member of the VFW & DAV.

PROGRAM

Welcome & Introductions:

The Hon. Bob Apgar, Mayor
City of DeLand

Invocation:

Michael Carroll, Chaplain
Volusia County Sheriff's Office

Presentation of Colors:

Volusia County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Hon. Patrick Henry
Florida House of Representatives, District 26

Congressional Badge of Bravery Introduction:

Karin B. Hoppmann
First Assistant U.S. Attorney

Introduction of Deputy Justin Ferrari:

The Hon. Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff

Congressional Badge of Bravery Presentation:

The Hon. Bill Nelson
United States Senator

Honoree Remarks:

Deputy Justin Ferrari

Medal Presentation to William Holder:

U.S. Senator Bill Nelson

Honoree Remarks:

MSgt. William Holder

U.S. Senator Marco Rubio Presentation:

Thomas Self
Regional Director

Retire the Colors & Closing Remarks:

Mayor Apgar

Thank you to the families, friends, colleagues, and community members for their support of these brave Floridians, and to all who helped honor them here today.