

# Norwich Police Department



Awards Ceremony  
2013

## MISSION STATEMENT



*“The mission of the Norwich Police Department is to protect life, safeguard property and maintain social order within carefully prescribed ethical and constitutional restrictions while providing community based police services with compassion and concern.”*

## Line of Duty Deaths

### Lieutenant William S. Gordon: July 7, 1881

Lieutenant William Gordon was injured in a fierce battle with a prisoner escaping from a cell at Police Headquarters. Described as a “fearful two and one half hour struggle”. The prisoner escaped and the injuries sustained by the Lieutenant later proved to be fatal.

### Sergeant John H. Kane: April 4, 1923

Sergeant John Kane was electrocuted in one of the strangest incidents to occur by a 4,000 volt short to a suspension cable attached to an electric light pole. He was dispatched to investigate the death of a local teenager who unknown to the Sergeant had also been electrocuted by the same cable.

### Sergeant Michael J. Carroll: December 11, 1934

Sergeant Michael Carroll fell victim to an emotionally disturbed subject's bullet while seeking to capture the individual for commitment to the Norwich State Hospital. The subject had hidden in a room of a Washington Street residence and fatally wounded the Sergeant with one blast from a single shot, 12 gauge shotgun.

### Officer Frank Gwiazdowski: October 11, 1936

Officer Frank Gwiazdowski was struck by a hit and run driver while enroute to Police Headquarters. He died from his injuries a few short hours later. The youthful operator and passengers were apprehended ten minutes after Officer Gwiazdowski was struck down, a short distance from the scene at Boswell Avenue and Hickory Street.

## Awards Committee

Chief Louis J. Fusaro – *ex officio*  
Captain Patrick Daley  
Lieutenant Christopher Ferace  
Sergeant Corey Poore  
Detective Jason Calouro  
Officer John Perry  
Officer Rodman Cappiello  
Officer Scott Dupointe  
Sharyn Mish

*The awards ceremony held today demonstrates our constant appreciation of service and dedication to those serving as active members of the Norwich Police Department. In no way do we wish to forget those retired members who have served our community with pride and valor, and we thank them for their loyal service.*

## Program

Entrance of Administration

Presentation of colors

Introductions

Master of Ceremonies, Captain Timothy Menard,  
Retired

Police Pipes & Drums of Waterbury, Connecticut  
Nancy Fellingner

National Anthem

Performed by: Rachel Lenda

Invocation

Reverend Gary Poorman, Norwich Police Chaplain

Line of Duty Deaths

Reverend Gary Poorman, Norwich Police Chaplain

Moment of Silence

**Chief Louis Fusaro Sr.  
Deputy Chief Warren Mocek  
Captain Patrick Daley  
Lieutenant Mark Rankowitz  
Lieutenant Christopher Ferace  
Lieutenant Albert Costa  
Sergeant James Veiga  
Sergeant Michael Belair  
Sergeant Corey Poore  
Sergeant Edwin Peckham  
Sergeant Steve Lamantini  
Detective Trevor Robinson  
Detective James Curtis  
Detective Darren Powers  
Detective Christopher Conley  
Detective Jason Calouro  
Officer Jonathan Ley  
Officer Michael McKinney  
Officer John Perry  
Officer Josip Peperni  
Officer Gregory McDonald  
Officer Christopher Merrill  
Officer Andre Rosedale  
Officer Kevin Wilbur  
Officer Timothy Rykowski  
Officer Harrison Formiglio**

**Officer Stephanie Reichard  
Officer Kyle Besse  
Officer Chase Chiangi  
Officer Rodman Cappiello  
Officer Ryan O'Connell  
Officer Steven Schmidt  
Officer Scott Dupointe  
Officer Mark Dean  
Officer Peter Karasuk  
Officer Anthony Marceau  
Officer Christopher Hawrylik  
Officer Joel Ethier  
Officer Dennis Bialowas  
Officer Sean Sullivan  
Officer Kyle Long  
Officer Christopher Nott  
Officer Kenneth Wright  
Officer Richard Cannata  
  
Dispatcher Beth Desmond  
Dispatcher Laura Zellner  
  
Captain Louis J. Fusaro Jr.  
Trooper Steven Rief  
Trooper Michael Avery  
Trooper Collin Konow**

On January 7, 2013, Norwich Police Dispatch received a call from a suicide hotline worker reporting that a despondent male armed with multiple firearms planned to die via “suicide by cop”. Norwich Police Dispatchers worked diligently to identify the suicidal subject and his residence. Numerous officers were called on to respond, some from their homes, as the scope of the incident expanded. Some officers positioned themselves outside the subject’s apartment, while others evacuated the building. The subject, who was clearly intoxicated and distraught, was contacted via telephone. He explained his intention to force police officers to take his life. The subject began firing his weapon at the officers through the door demanding that we clear his floor so he could exit his apartment. It was explained to the gunman that this could not be allowed. He again fired through the door at officers. Officers held their positions and although provoked, did not fire back. The gunman then opened his front door and with gun in hand, pointed it at officers. An officer discharged his weapon at the gunman who retreated into his apartment, grabbed his rifle, and continued firing on officers through a window. Officer Jonathan Ley was struck by the gunman’s rounds and went down. Officer Christopher Merrill returned fire which allowed Officer Kyle Besse to extract Officer Ley to safety and a waiting ambulance. Officers not directly involved in the fire fight held positions knowing that by giving up ground could only endanger others. Officer Ley was transported to WW Backus Hospital and later flown to Yale New Haven Hospital for treatment. Connecticut State Police Emergency Services Tactical Unit replaced Norwich Police Officers on the inner perimeter. The gunman later chose to take his own life. Although not specifically detailed, every Award Recipient listed was instrumental in insuring no additional officers were injured and no civilians were harmed.

***All Officers and Norwich Police Dispatchers involved in this incident are being individually awarded for their exceptional courage, heroism, bravery, perseverance, ingenuity and dedication to duty in dealing with this tragic incident.***

## **Program**

### Remarks

Chief of Police, Louis J. Fusaro  
City Manager, Alan Bergren  
Mayor, Peter Nystrom

### Veterans Awards

Dr. Linda S. Schwartz, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs

### Presentation of Awards

### Benediction

### Recessional

Police Pipes & Drums of Waterbury, Connecticut

***Following the ceremony please join us for a small reception in the Cafeteria donated by the Norwich Policeman’s Benevolent Association Post #2.***

## Veterans' Awards

### United States Army

Louis Fusaro Sr. – Spec. 4 (1966 to 1968)  
Carl S. Bourne III – Sergeant (January 2006 to May 2007)  
Albert Costa Jr. – Spec. 4 (October 1979 to October 1982)  
Michael McKinney – Spec. 4 (April 1989 to April 1994)  
Patrick Mickens – Spec. 4 (June 2012 to May 2013)  
Andre Rosedale – Spec. 4 (April 1994 to June 1997)  
Sean Sullivan – Staff Sergeant (February 2002 to August 2004)  
Kevin Wilbur – Corporal (September 1991 to July 1995)

### United States Navy

Rodman Cappiello – Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class (September 2003 to  
September 2007)  
Carl Dye – Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class (October 1980 to July 1992)

### United States Marine Corps

Cornelius Carmody – Corporal (February 2003 to October 2003)  
Zachary Desmond – Corporal (August 2002 to August 2006)  
Thomas Lawton – Sergeant (June 2005 to May 2006)  
Timothy Rykowski – Sergeant (April 1999 to July 2003)

### United States Coast Guard

James Curtis – Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class (April 1987 to April 1991)  
Jonathan Ley – Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (April 2009 to March 2010)

Within every office, there are those people who, without them, the office would be in disarray. *Cathleen Paradis* is one of these people. She is one of the most essential parts of the Records Division and Police Department as a whole. Her ability to put forth exemplary work and going above and beyond her job day in and day out is what keeps the Records Division running. Her extensive knowledge of this department is unparalleled. Cathleen's exceptional work and incomparable knowledge of the department are the reasons she is being awarded an **Exceptional Service Award**.

On January 2, 2013, the Norwich Police Department received a hold-up alarm at Dime Savings Bank, located in downtown Norwich. Norwich Police Department Detectives Darren Powers and Trevor Robinson were first on scene and confirmed that a bank robbery had just occurred. The initial investigation revealed a middle aged male had just robbed the bank by passing a note indicating a threat of violence. While Detective Trevor Robinson and other officers interviewed witnesses and processed the scene of physical evidence, Detective Darren Powers located witnesses outside the bank who had relative information as to who the perpetrator was. A suspect was developed based on Detective Power's interviews; a BOLO was sent out to Norwich Police Officers and area police departments. Once the scene was cleared hours later, Sergeant Poore and Detective Robinson continued the investigation by checking area hotels. At one of these hotels, Sergeant Poore and Detective Robinson located and subsequently arrested the individual responsible for the Dime Savings Bank robbery. In doing so, the majority of the money stolen from the bank was recovered. For their perseverance and thoroughness, today we award *Sergeant Corey Poore*, *Detective Trevor Robinson* and *Detective Darren Powers* with an **Exceptional Service Award**.

**Police Intel**

During his time as a Norwich Police Officer, Officer Gregory McDonald has made it his mission to update and add pertinent information to his database on local crime trends and individuals involved in local criminal gang activity. Officer McDonald's selfless effort, mostly done on his personal time, has created a more knowledgeable and safer environment for his co-workers at the Norwich Police Department. Officer McDonald's efforts have led to the apprehension of several dangerous suspects in a short matter of time, making the City of Norwich safer. For his hard work and exceptional knowledge and dedication to making the City of Norwich safer, *Officer Gregory McDonald* is being awarded the **Exceptional Service Award**.

## **Award Descriptions**

### **Police Exceptional Service Medal:**

This medal is awarded to any person(s) who successfully performed an extremely difficult/complex investigation/task or who demonstrated exceptional skills/ingenuity in the apprehension of a wanted person or who continuously achieved excellence in the performance of their duties over an extended period of time.

### **Police Life Saving Award:**

This medal is awarded to any person(s) saving a person's life or making a valiant attempt to do so, at their own peril.

### **Police Meritorious Service Medal:**

This medal is awarded to any Police Officer(s) rendering service with a high degree of alertness, perseverance and superior judgment in performance of a difficult task resulting in the protection of life, recovery of property and/or the prevention or solving of a major crime, involving the apprehension of an armed and/or dangerous suspect.

### **Police Medal for Bravery:**

This medal is awarded to any Police Officer who demonstrates exceptional heroism/bravery in performance of duty while exposed to life or limb threatening danger.

### **Police Medal of Valor:**

This medal is awarded to any member who performs above and beyond the call of duty; while exhibiting exceptional courage, extraordinary decisiveness and presence of mind, as well as unusual swiftness of action, regardless of his or her own safety in an attempt to save or protect human life.

**Salem Turnpike Homicide****May 2004 – April 2010**

On May 14, 2004, Norwich Police Officers were dispatched to 119 Salem Turnpike Norwich, CT for a report of a medical emergency. The subsequent investigation revealed the owner of the property, Dr. Eugene Mallove, had been brutally murdered and left lifeless in his driveway. In June 2005, two subjects were arrested and held for the murder of Dr. Mallove. Further investigation revealed that these two subjects had nothing to do with Dr. Mallove's murder and the charges were later dropped. In November 2008, Norwich Police Detective James Curtis along with CT State Police Detective Terrence McFadden were assigned to re-investigate this murder. Sergeant Corey Poore joined the team in December of that same year. Detective Curtis and Detective McFadden took the time to inspect every piece of evidence and evaluate every interview conducted. Detective Curtis and Detective McFadden formulated a game plan and forged ahead against overwhelming odds. After a lengthy and thorough investigation that spanned several states with the utilization of investigative skills such as witness protection, confidential informants, cooperating witnesses, countless hours of surveillance, search warrant executions, meetings with prosecutors, meetings with forensics scientists, meetings with FBI Behavioral Profilers, Norwich Police arrested two subjects responsible for the death of Dr. Eugene Mallove. It was due to ***Detectives James Curtis, Detective Terrence McFadden and Sergeant Corey Poore's*** perseverance and superior performance in bringing this case to justice that they are awarded a **Meritorious Service Award**.

**Capehart Mill Fire****April 2010**

On April 27, 2010 dispatch personnel received a call for a massive structure fire at the Capehart Mill on North Main Street. At the time of the call, the dispatch center was staffed solely by Dispatcher Robert Jackson. Understanding this particular structure fire would involve numerous area Fire Departments and personnel, a call was placed to Dispatcher Daniel O'Brien who was off duty at this time. Dispatcher O'Brien immediately responded to the dispatch center and, along with Dispatcher Jackson worked for several hours coordinating the massive response necessary to bring the fire under control. For these reasons, ***Dispatcher Robert Jackson and Dispatcher Daniel O'Brien*** are receiving an **Exceptional Service Award**.

**Student in Distress****November 2012**

On November 14, 2012, Deputy Chief Warren Mocek was visiting Norwich Technical High School. Deputy Chief Mocek noticed a student exit the cafeteria in obvious distress with her hands to her throat, indicating she was choking and unable to breathe. Deputy Chief Mocek confirmed the student was in fact choking and properly performed the Heimlich Maneuver and dislodged the food that was lodged in her airway, preventing her breathing. On this day, ***Deputy Chief Warren Mocek*** is being honored with a **Lifesaving Award**.

**Structure Fire****December 2012**

On December 7, 2012, officers were dispatched for a report of a structure fire with a victim trapped on the second floor. Among those officers were Officer Cornelius Carmody and Officer Scott Meikle. When the officers arrived on scene, the residence's second floor was fully engulfed in flames. As they approached the residence, one of the victims stated there was a person trapped on the second floor. Hearing this, the officers jumped to action, running into the residence and up to the second floor. At the top of the stairs, the officers were met with heavy black smoke. Officer Carmody and Officer Meikle located and carried the individual out to safety where the ambulance was waiting. Without the swift actions of these officers, the outcome of this could have been more grave. For this, ***Officer Cornelius Carmody and Officer Scott Meikle*** are being honored with a **Lifesaving Award**.



**Motor Vehicle Stop****September 2012**

On September 26, 2012, while on routine patrol, Officer Avery Marsh observed a vehicle which failed to have a front marker plate displayed. A further records check revealed that marker plate belonged to a different vehicle. A motor vehicle stop was initiated. While approaching the vehicle, Officer Marsh noticed the driver was excessively nervous. Due to the driver's furtive movements, nervous demeanor and reluctance to answer specific questions, Officer Marsh requested the driver exit the vehicle and further requested a search of the car. While searching, Officer Marsh found a clear plastic bag known to him through his training and experience as packaging material for street level narcotics sales. Officer Marsh utilized his canine partner, Luther, a certified narcotic detection canine to search the vehicle. Located in the vehicle was Marijuana, Cocaine packaged for sale and a loaded handgun which was found under the driver seat. Prior to this incident, Officer Marsh had knowledge of a Connecticut State Police investigation in which a similar type handgun was used in a recent homicide. It has since been learned that the weapon found in the vehicle was the same one used in the recent homicide. Officer Marsh's discovery and arrest of the operator aided the CT State Police in their homicide investigation. This same operator was later arrested by the CT State Police for murder in connection with that homicide. Today, Officer *Avery Marsh* and his *K9 partner Luther* are being honored with a **Meritorious Service Award**.

**Residential and Commercial Burglaries****October 2012**

On October 14, 2012, Officer First Class John Perry received a tip about a burglary, which was planned by three subjects for October 15, 2013. The information received was specific as to the time and address of the residence to be burglarized. Officer Perry conducted an inventory of the vacant residence and noted what was intact and present within the home. Officer Perry shared this tip with Officer Kevin Wilbur and a plan was put in place to conduct surveillance of the residence on the date and time of the planned burglary. On October 15, 2013, Officer Wilbur did locate and arrest those subjects responsible for the planned burglary. Since then, Officer Perry and Officer Wilbur investigated numerous residential and commercial burglaries and have made numerous arrests and recovered thousands of dollars in property. For their hard work and dedication, *Officer John Perry* and *Officer Kevin Wilbur* are being awarded with an **Exceptional Service Award**.

**Arson Taskforce**

Norwich Arson Taskforce began on April 30, 2010, and is currently made up of Sergeant Peter Camp, Officer Robert Smith and Trooper Wayne Opdenbrouw. Since the taskforce has been forged as a team, they have persistently investigated many current and past unsolved fires. Their efforts produced many superior outcomes, consisting of solving seventeen fires, including three in State Police jurisdiction which caused over \$1,000,000 in damages and costs. With the diligence of this team, they were able to arrest nine people for twelve specific fires, serve 26 arrest warrants, conduct over fifty interviews and multiple photo line-ups. More recently in July of 2012, the Arson Taskforce was able to make four additional arrests in connection with two fires, of which damages estimated over \$575,000. It's for these reasons we would like to recognize the Norwich Police Department Arson Taskforce to include *Sergeant Peter Camp, Officer Robert Smith* and *Trooper Wayne Opdenbrouw* with a **Meritorious Service Award**.

**Shell Food Mart Robbery****May 2010**

On May 15, 2010, at about 9:40pm, several Norwich Police Officers were dispatched to the area of the Shell Gas Station, located at 168 West Town Street in Norwichtown for a report of a hold up alarm. Norwich Police Dispatch attempted to phone the Shell Gas Station to no avail. After several attempts dispatchers finally made contact with the store clerk. The store clerk confirmed he had just been the victim of an armed robbery. The store clerk described the armed perpetrator as a black male wearing dark clothing and after taking money and cigarettes he fled on foot towards the nearby Norwich Ten Pin Bowling Alley. Arriving officers appropriately set up a perimeter and were able to locate and arrest the armed robber who was still in possession of cash and property stolen from the store. As such the following officers are being awarded with an **Exceptional Service Award**; *Sergeant James Tetreault, Officer Jason Calouro, Officer Joel Grispino, Officer Thomas Lazzaro, Officer Damien Martin, Officer Greg McDonald, Officer Scott Meikle, Officer Stephanie Reichard, and Officer Andre Rosedale*.

**Suicidal Person****May 2010**

On May 26, 2010 officers were dispatched to Clinton Avenue for a reported suicidal person who had self inflicted injuries. Officer Grispino arrived on scene and observed two subjects through a window, one armed with a knife. Officer Grispino with the help of another officer were able to evacuate the second subject inside the building. Upon entering the building, officers approached the despondent person, who was observed holding a utility knife. Officers ordered him several times to drop the knife with the subject refusing to comply. The emotional state and posture of the subject was indicative of a person attempting "suicide by cop". One officer distracted the subject while holding him at gunpoint so Officer Grispino could position himself to deploy his taser. Upon deployment of the taser the officers were able to gain control of the knife and quickly diffuse the intense situation. Due to Officer Grispino showing great restraint, experience, patience and tactics, this incident ended with minimal injury and the subject received treatment for his emotional issues. On this day, *Officer Joel Grispino* is being honored with a **Meritorious Service Award**.

**Detective Division****June 2010 – December 2010**

During a six month time frame from June 2010 through December 2010, the Norwich Police Detective Division worked tirelessly and successfully on several major cases. Detectives investigated 2 murders, 3 shootings with injuries, 3 bank robberies, 10 burglaries, an extremely complex embezzlement case valued in excess of \$110,000, a sex assault of a student by an instructor and conducted a large scale narcotic sweep. All of the above cases were multifaceted and intricate, requiring a collaborative effort of all members of the Detective Division to bring to a successful conclusion. As a result of these investigations, 10 guns were recovered, 34 people were arrested and a large amount of narcotics and drug dealers were taken off the streets. For these reasons, *Sergeant Christopher Ladd, Sergeant Corey Poore, Detective Patrick Mickens, Detective Trevor Robinson, Detective Damon Wallace, Detective Darren Powers, Detective Delmar Carter, Detective James Curtis, Detective Christopher Conley* and *Officer Greg McDonald* are being honored with **Exceptional Service Awards**.

**Home Invasion****August 2012**

On August 16, 2012, Norwich Police Officers were dispatched to 204 Franklin St. for a report of a violent armed home invasion. Norwich Detective Christopher Conley was called in from home to further investigate the incident. After interviewing the residents, it was learned that two masked subjects forced their way into a residence, one of them armed with a handgun. Residents were forced to lie on the floor at gunpoint while thousands of dollars in cash and jewelry were taken. Early suspects were developed by on-scene witnesses. Detective Conley, not comfortable with the identifications, continued on with his investigation and not only ruled out the earlier suspects but positively identified those two subjects that were responsible for the home invasion. Detective Conley not only arrested those responsible, but was able to gain confessions in this case and information relative to other violent crimes in New London County area. For his steadfast determination and unwavering dedication to this and other relevant investigations, *Detective Christopher Conley* is being honored with an **Exceptional Service Award**.

**Despondent Subject****August 2012**

On August 28, 2012 Sergeant Patrick Mickens responded to the William Backus Hospital for a report of a despondent subject locked inside a motor vehicle. As he arrived on scene, he observed officers standing next to a vehicle with a woman (subsequently identified as the subject's mother) trying to speak with the individual inside. Sergeant Mickens instructed the officers into a better tactical position. Simultaneously, Sergeant Mickens heard the tires screech and observed it rapidly accelerate backwards and strike one of the police cruisers positioned behind the vehicle. The vehicle then began to rapidly accelerate forward, heading directly towards Sergeant Mickens and the despondent subject's mother. With swift action, Sergeant Mickens pushed the female out of harms way and, feeling that civilians in the area and himself were in imminent physical danger, Sergeant Mickens drew his duty weapon and fired at the operator of the vehicle. Sergeant Mickens was then struck by the vehicle. The vehicle stopped its forward momentum and came to rest. Sergeant Mickens and the two on-scene officers removed the operator and rendered first aid to the operator. Due to a high degree of alertness and concern for the lives of others, *Sergeant Patrick Mickens* is being honored with a **Meritorious Service Award**.

**Disturbance Call****January 2012**

On January 21, 2012, Officer Keven McNeill and Officer Scott Dupointe were dispatched to a call for a reported disturbance. Upon arrival, the officers observed a man pacing back and forth inside the residence through a window with his demeanor somewhat agitated. The officers made contact with the female that was present, at which time, the man became aggressive towards the officers, requesting that they shoot him. When efforts to calm the situation failed, officers attempted to place the man under arrest. A violent struggle ensued, at which time it was discovered the man was armed with a knife. During the struggle to gain control of the man, Officer Dupointe felt something sharp poke his leg. It was then revealed that the subject was concealing two serrated kitchen knives in his back pocket. Officer Dupointe located the kitchen knives and disarmed the subject. While continuing to struggle with the officers, the subject attempted to remove one of the officers service weapon from its holster. Officer Dupointe deployed his taser, which had little effect on the subject. Eventually, Officer McNeill and Officer Dupointe were able to restrain the subject and take him into custody. For showing great restraint in dealing with an armed and combative person, ***Officer Keven McNeill*** and ***Officer Scott Dupointe*** are being given a **Meritorious Service Award**.

**Boswell Avenue Murder****August 2012**

On the night of October 10, 2008, Tynel Hardwick was murdered in front of Rumors Bar on Boswell Avenue. Although diligently worked, the case went cold and was assigned to the New London County Cold Case Unit. In August 2012, retired Probation Officer and former member of the NLCCC Unit, Daniel Venditto and his partner, John Hyde learned of information which they believed to be important to the unsolved homicide case. Venditto and Hyde immediately reported this information to Norwich Police. This lead was worked by Norwich Police Detectives and members of the New London County Cold Case Unit and subsequently lead to the arrest of Jose Ramos for the murder of Tynel Hardwick. On this day, ***Daniel Venditto*** and ***John Hyde*** are being honored with an **Exceptional Service Award**.

**Unresponsive Infant****October 2010**

On October 19, 2010, Officer Avery Marsh was dispatched for the report of an unresponsive infant. Officer Marsh was first to arrive on scene and found the infant to be unconscious. Officer Marsh noticed that the child was soaking wet. His observations led him to believe that the child had aspirated water and began CPR/Rescue Breathing techniques until American Ambulance or Norwich Fire Department could arrive on scene. With Officer Marsh's swift actions, the infant was revived and taken to the hospital where the infant was stabilized. Today, we honor ***Officer Avery Marsh*** with a **Lifesaving Award**.

**Party Out of Control****October 2010**

On October 29, 2010, Sergeant Michael Belair, Officer Carl Bourne, Officer Rodman Capiello and Officer Steven DeLoreto responded to an address in Norwich for a report of a man armed and threatening violence with a handgun. At the address, arriving officers located a large house party. Sergeant Belair and Officer Capiello made contact with the complainant and were escorted into the party to identify the armed individual. Once identification was made, Sergeant Belair, Officer Capiello and Officer Bourne became entangled in a violent struggle with the armed individual. Officer DeLoreto controlled the unruly crowd, which was turning hostile towards the officers. The individual forced his way to his feet during the struggle and was ultimately taken under control by all the officers involved. The subject was found to be in possession of a loaded 9MM handgun that was later determined to be stolen. On this day, ***Sergeant Michael Belair***, ***Officer Steven DeLoreto***, ***Officer Carl Bourne***, and ***Officer Rodman Capiello*** are being honored with a **Meritorious Service Award**.

**Chelsea Groton Bank Robbery****November 2010**

On November 12, 2010, Norwich Police Department received a call for a hold-up alarm and robbery from the downtown branch of the Chelsea Groton bank. It was reported the suspect fled on foot. Officers and Detectives arrived on scene to gather information and to process the scene. Norwich Police Department Detectives obtained photographs of the suspect from video surveillance within the bank and disseminated them to officers on patrol who were actively searching the area. Officer Nicholas Rankin took the initiative and showed the surveillance photos to some individuals in the area. Not only were these individuals able to positively identify the person in the photo, but they were also able to provide information which was successful in proving this individual was responsible for the bank robbery. It was later learned the suspect had no ties to the area and had plans to leave the area for good following the bank robbery. The suspect's identity was forwarded and as a result of Officer Rankin's due diligence in this case, the suspect was later apprehended in Western, CT. For this reason, ***Officer Nicholas Rankin*** is being honored with an **Exceptional Service Award**.

**Armed Robbery****November 2010**

On November 19, 2010, officers were dispatched to Dairy Queen for the report of an armed robbery. Among those officers were Officer Jason Calouro and Officer Ryan O'Connell. Within seven hours from this report coming in, the officers interviewed multiple people, receiving information vital to their investigation, researched the information and found the residence of a subject thought to have been involved. While attempting to make contact with the subject, Officer Calouro and Officer O'Connell believed there was evidence within the residence indicating this person was directly involved in the robbery. Immediately, a search and seizure warrant was prepared, signed and executed. The officers located the subject outside the residence and were unable to determine if he was still in possession of the weapon. Unyielding to officers' demands, the subject was wrestled to the ground and taken into custody. During the execution of the search warrant, officers were able to locate the clothes the subject was wearing at the time of the robbery, narcotics and a .32 caliber handgun. Because of ***Officer Jason Calouro*** and ***Officer Ryan O'Connell's*** extraordinary work on the above incident, both are being honored with a **Meritorious Service Award**.

**Fatal Stabbing****December 2010**

On December 14, 2010, Sergeant Michael Belair, Officer Scott Dupointe, Officer Patrick Lajoie and Officer Thomas Lawton were dispatched to the report of a fatal stabbing in which communications were difficult, as the parties involved did not speak English clearly. Officer Dupointe and Officer Lawton were first to arrive and were able to determine where the victim was located. Upon locating the victim and crime scene, Officer Dupointe and Officer Lawton were able to secure the scene preserving valuable evidence while at the same time rendering aid to the victim and interviewing several upset witnesses and friends of the victim. Sergeant Belair began directing the initial stages of the investigation. Officer Lajoie was assigned to accompany the victim to Backus Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Officer Lajoie was instrumental in gathering information and preserving valuable evidence. Officer Lawton was assigned to aid in a K-9 track for the suspect. Officer Lawton was also instrumental in identifying and locating the suspect who was arrested and charged with murder less than eighteen hours after the stabbing. For these actions, ***Sergeant Michael Belair, Officer Patrick Lajoie, Officer Thomas Lawton and Officer Scott Dupointe*** are being awarded a **Meritorious Service Award**.

**Suicidal Person****May 2011**

On May 24, 2011, Norwich Police Officers, including Officer Stephanie Reichard, were dispatched to Wawecus Hill Rd on the overpass crossing above Interstate 395 for a person threatening to jump from the bridge. Officer Reichard was first to arrive on scene, locating a person atop a chain link fence with more than half of his body hanging over Interstate 395. Officer Reichard immediately employed exemplary communication skills and used training she had received to diffuse a potentially tragic situation that would have otherwise ended with much worse results. On this day, ***Officer Stephanie Reichard*** is being honored with a **Meritorious Service Award**.