

2006 Valor Awards

Courage, boldness and bravery define the men and women who were honored at the inaugural Valor Awards Ceremony, hosted by the Gwinnett Chamber on March 24. This special General Membership Luncheon paid tribute to Gwinnett's public safety professionals, including police, fire fighters and emergency personnel.

The awards ceremony honored all of the public safety personnel who ensure that our community is safe, but in particular it celebrated a special few who possessed an extreme amount of bravery and heroism in the line of duty.

On April 13, 2005 Officers Kevin Sebring, Bruce Sherman and Gregory Perry with the Snellville Police Department, the recipients of the Gold Valor Award, responded to a call that a vehicle was traveling at a slow rate of speed with multiple vehicles behind it. It was also reported that the driver was possibly driving impaired. The call led to a chase where Officer Sebring was hit in the leg by the fleeing vehicle and a shot was fired by Officer Sherman after the driver of the vehicle struck Sebring. After the fleeing vehicle hit Officer Perry's control car, the chase ended when Sherman went after the vehicle and then took the driver of the car into custody. The officers showed extreme bravery and heroism by putting themselves in harms way while attempting to save the lives of others who could have possibly been injured by the driver of the car.

The following officers were also awarded at the ceremony:

Valor Award

Silver: Sgt. Doug Mattox, Sgt. Jerry Stancil, Lt. Kevin Moran – Gwinnett County Police

Bronze: Deputy Sheriff Matt Warren – Gwinnett County Sheriff's Department

Medal of Merit (for programs)

It Won't Happen to Me – Bill Richardson, Gwinnett Solicitor's Office

Lifesaving Award

Cpl. Kim Carroll, Deputy Bob Patterson, Deputy Nakia Brooks – Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office

Public Safety Person of the Year

Lt. Bill Stevens – Duluth Police

Public Safety Unit of the Year

Special Investigations Section – Combined Unit

The Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the award winners, along with all the public safety personnel who work to keep Gwinnett County safe.