



MINNESOTA POLICE AND PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Minnesota's Police Association announces annual awards of "Officer of the Year" and "Legislators of the Year"

(St. Paul, Minn.) The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association proudly announces its 2024 "Officer of the Year," "Officer of the Year Honorable Mention," and "Legislators of the Year."

The nominations for MPPOA Officer of the Year are based on "heroics, outstanding service, or distinguished community involvement in service." Recipients were selected by the MPPOA Board of Directors from many nominations. The award is considered a high honor, as it is from the largest association representing public safety professionals in Minnesota. MPPOA represents Minnesota's more than 10,700 public safety officials who hold active law enforcement licenses in the state of Minnesota. Members include rank-and-file police officers, correctional officers, dispatchers, and firefighters.

MPPOA will formally honor the award winners on Saturday, June 15 at its annual convention at Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center in Alexandria, Minnesota. This year the MPPOA celebrates its 102nd Annual Convention.

MPPOA's 2024 Officer of the Year: Anoka County Sheriff's Deputy Tanner Shipman

The MPPOA 2024 Officer of the Year is Anoka County Sheriff's Deputy Tanner Shipman. He has worked for the Anoka County Sheriff's Office for 18 years and is currently assigned to the Patrol Division. He is also a Field Training Officer and member of the Mobile Force Unit.

[While on vacation in Sturgis, South Dakota in August 2023](#), Deputy Shipman stopped at a local convenience store and came across a suspect pointing and then shooting his gun at a South Dakota State Trooper. Deputy Shipman acted quickly – he retrieved his sister-in-law's handgun and moved to assist the trooper, who had since fallen to the ground. He identified himself as an officer to the crowd and saw the suspect getting into the Trooper's vehicle. After a continued shootout with the suspect that included 42 rounds, the suspect ultimately surrendered and was taken into custody. Deputy Shipman provided medical care to the suspect until professionals arrived, and he survived his injuries.

Deputy Shipman's actions arguably saved at least two lives that day - the trooper who was in desperate need of help in a shootout, and the suspect who had been hit with multiple rounds. In his nomination of Deputy Shipman, Anoka County Sheriff Brad Wise recognized his "bravery, selfless service, concern for others, swift decision-making, and commitment to justice."

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Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association Executive Director Brian Peters said, “Deputy Shipman’s actions were nothing less than heroic. He not only protected the public from a dangerous armed felon but ran towards gunfire to protect the life of the trooper. Deputy Shipman’s willingness to act, calm composure, and professionalism during this event ensured a positive outcome.”

[This picture of Anoka County Sheriff’s Deputy Tanner Shipman is available for media use.](#)

MPPOA’s 2024 Officer of the Year Honorable Mentions: Sergeant Cody Blanshan of the St. Paul Police Department and Sergeant Jason Giampolo of the St. Paul Police Department

Sergeant Cody Blanshan of the St. Paul Police Department has been awarded MPPOA 2024 Officer of the Year Honorable Mention. Sergeant Blanshan was working as a patrol supervisor in the Eastern District of St. Paul when he responded to supervise a scene where a mother called to report that a suspect had assaulted her. Upon arrival, Sergeant Blanshan witnessed the suspect attempt to carjack an innocent victim at gunpoint. The suspect next started shooting at Sergeant Blanshan. He immediately returned fire and stopped the threat.

Peters said, “The innocent carjacking victim, the original victim of the domestic assault, and her children, are all safe thanks to Sergeant Blanshan’s quick and heroic actions. He exemplified what courage is all about on that night by risking his own life to save the lives of people he had never met. By the grace of God, he was not struck by gunfire. Sergeant Blanshan acted heroically and dynamically to preserve lives at great risk to himself.”

[This picture of St. Paul Sergeant Blanshan is available for media use.](#)

Sergeant Jason Giampolo of the St. Paul Police Department has been awarded MPPOA 2024 Officer of the Year Honorable Mention. Sergeant Giampolo has been with the St. Paul Police Department for 18 years, the last 8 years as an investigator with the Internet Crimes Against Children Unit. His time is spent investigating the most heinous criminal acts against our communities: sexual-related crimes against children. These investigations deal with human trafficking and child pornography. Sergeant Giampolo is recognized for his tremendous dedication, hard work, and continued success helping victims of crime. His work has taken him to multiple states and has assisted his FBI partners with child pornography, child enticement, and identity theft charges. He has successfully investigated matters that have led to many arrests and prosecutions, including many high-profile cases in 2023.

Peters said, “Sergeant Giampolo’s commitment to keeping children safe is unmatched. He exemplifies excellent and outstanding service for his work in a field that requires the greatest of responsibilities. He has made significant contributions not only to the city of St. Paul, but the entire state of Minnesota.”

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[This picture of Sergeant Giampolo is available for media use.](#)

MPPOA's 2024 Legislator of the Year: State Representative Paul Novotny (R-Elk River) and State Senator Judy Seeberger (D-Afton)

State Representative Paul Novotny is MPPOA's 2024 Legislator of the Year. He is currently serving his third term representing Elk River, Otsego, Nowthen, and Oak Grove in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Rep. Novotny is the Republican Minority Lead of the House of Representatives Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee. Prior to his legislative service, Novotny was a licensed Peace Officer and served for more than 33 years in various assignments for the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office, including Patrol Sergeant, Investigative Sergeant, and Firearms/Use of Force Instructor.

Rep. Novotny has been a successful legislative leader for peace officers in training, pension, mental health and disability rights, and working to prevent bills from becoming law that would be detrimental to the law enforcement profession. Rep. Novotny has also sponsored legislation that will make our communities safer and help victims of crime. His bill that makes carjacking a crime (HF 478) became law last year, and his efforts to increase the penalties for sale and possession of fentanyl during the 2021 – 22 legislative session (HF 3424) laid the groundwork for the changes that were enacted last year.

Peters said, "Representative Paul Novotny's unwavering dedication and advocacy at the Capitol have had a significant impact on every law enforcement member in Minnesota. His efforts have played a crucial role in fostering safer communities and providing support for victims of crime."

State Senator Judy Seeberger is MPPOA's 2024 Legislator of the Year. She is serving her first term representing the cities of Hastings, Cottage Grove, Afton, Lake Elmo, and surrounding townships in Washington and Dakota Counties. Sen. Seeberger is the Vice Chair of Commerce and Consumer Protection, and also serves on the Senate's Judiciary and Public Safety Committee – where all law enforcement-related bills are assigned. She also sits on the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement. Professionally, Sen. Seeberger is a paramedic with Allina Health and on the Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Department working the front lines.

Public safety and crime prevention are vitally important to her and has been her focus at the State Capitol. She's been a leader on legislation to improve funding for police officer equipment and recruiting, funding for emergency services, and pension issues. For Sen. Seeberger, supporting our law enforcement is an everyday job, a commitment that she lives as a first responder and upholds every day in office.

Peters said, "Senator Judy Seeberger is a consistent advocate for safer communities and law enforcement. Her influential presence and dedication have been crucial. We are immensely proud of her impactful work and deeply thankful for the opportunity to recognize and honor her efforts."

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