

IOWA POLICE JOURNAL

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PURPLE HEART AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Iowa State Police Association (ISPA) is proud to recognize extraordinary individuals with the Iowa Law Enforcement Purple Heart Award. This honor is granted to sworn Iowa peace officers who have been seriously, critically or fatally injured in the line of duty. In addition, this award may be conferred if an injury was averted by body armor.

Please visit our [Purple Heart Award page](#) to nominate an officer. Purple Heart Award nominations must involve an assailant attack or act of valor occurring or concluding between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016. This year, and in future years, the award will be presented to the recipient or posthumously to the law enforcement officer's family at the annual ISPA conference in October.



PAST RECIPIENTS



Officer Jill Ohm Fitch
Sioux City Police Department
Date of incident: 10-03-2014

Officer Jill Ohm Fitch was dispatched to a disturbance involving a subject who was possibly suicidal. A male exited the residence and Officer Fitch initiated contact with him, not knowing if he was involved. This subject was being compliant with Officer Fitch and following verbal directives. Without warning or provocation, the suspect pulled a handgun from his pocket and advanced on Officer Fitch, firing two shots at point blank range. One of the bullets struck her in the chin.



Sergeant Brendan Zeimet
Maquoketa Police Department
Date of incident: 04-01-2014

Sergeant Brendan Zeimet was shot and seriously injured during a suspicious person investigation in the early hours of April 1, 2014. While ending his shift just before 3:00 a.m., Sergeant Zeimet observed a truck parked on the wrong side of the road with its lights off and one occupant. When he got out to check on the occupant, the suspect raised an assault rifle and a gunfight ensued.



Officer Jamie Buenting
Rockwell City Police Department
End of watch: 09-13-13

Police Officer Jamie Buenting was shot and killed during a standoff in the early hours of September 13, 2014. Officers had responded to a home four hours earlier after receiving a report that a man, wanted for felony domestic assault, was at the location. The man refused to exit the home when officers arrived and barricaded himself inside. The subject fired a single shot at approximately 1:40 a.m. and struck Officer Buenting, killing him.



Lieutenant Patrick Richardson
Newton Police Department
End of watch: 09-01-2013

Lieutenant Patrick Richardson went on a run in preparation of the department's mandatory bi-annual physical fitness test. During the run, he developed heavy chest pains and realized he was having a heart attack. He summoned bystanders for assistance and was eventually flown by air ambulance to Iowa Methodist Medical Center where he ultimately passed away.